SHONEN SUNDAY

CASE CLOSED

Story and art by
Gosho Aoyama

Vol.32

CASE CLOSED

VOLUME 32

Gosho Aoyama

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CASE CLOSED

CONFIDEN

Case Briefing:

Subject:	Jimmy Kudo, a.k.a. Conan Edogawa
Occupation:	High School Student/Detective
Special Skills:	Analytical thinking and deductive reasoning, Soccer
Equipment:	Bow Tie Voice Transmitter, Super Sneakers, Homing Glasses, Stretchy Suspenders

The subject is hot on the trail of a pair of suspicious men in black when he is attacked from behind and administered a strange substance which physically transforms him into a first grader. When the subject confides in the eccentric inventor Dr. Agasa, they decide to keep the subject's true identity a secret for the safety of everyone around him. Assuming the new identity of first-grader Conan Edogawa, the subject continues to assist the police force on their most baffling cases. The only problem is that most crime-solving professionals won't take a little kid's advice!

CASE CLOSED

Volume 32 • Shonen Sunday Edition

GOSHO AOYAMA

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RATED T+ FOR OLDER TEEN

PARENTAL ADVISORY
CASE CLOSED is rated T+ for Older Teen and is recommended for ages 16 and up. This volume contains realistic and graphic violence.
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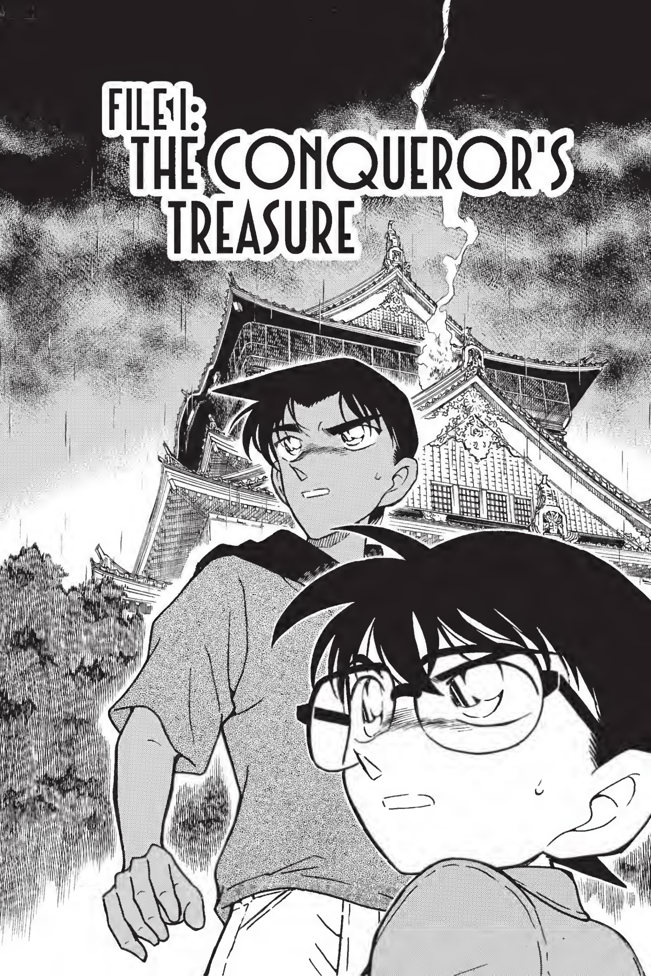
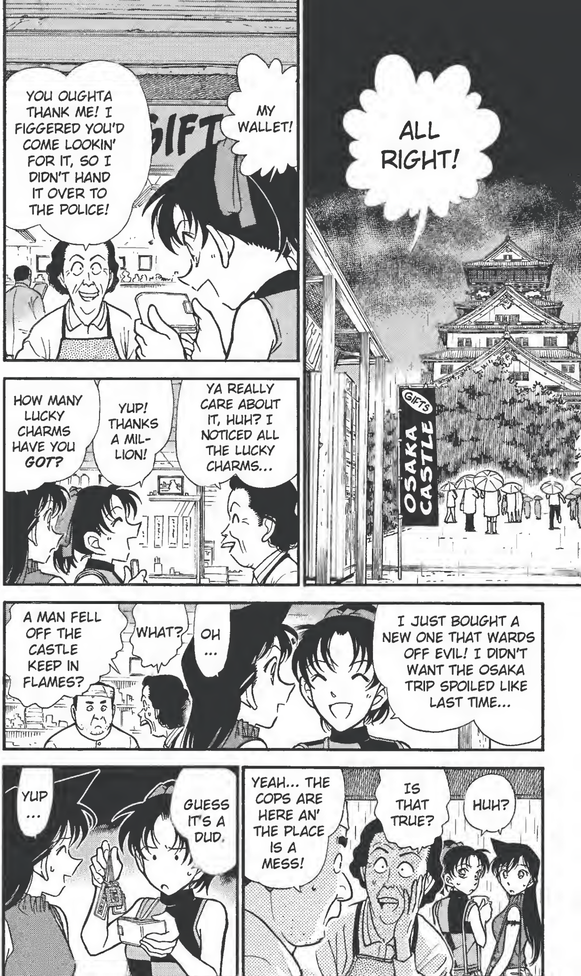
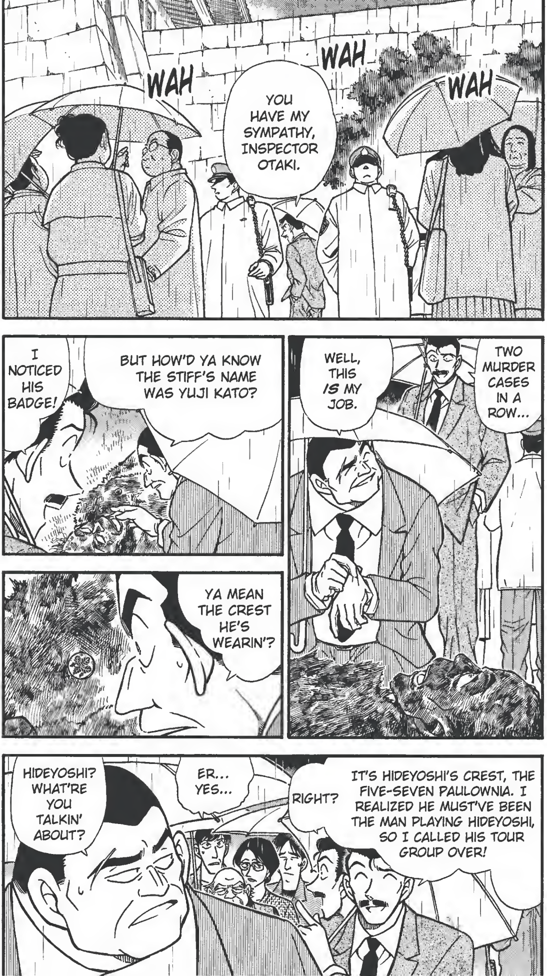
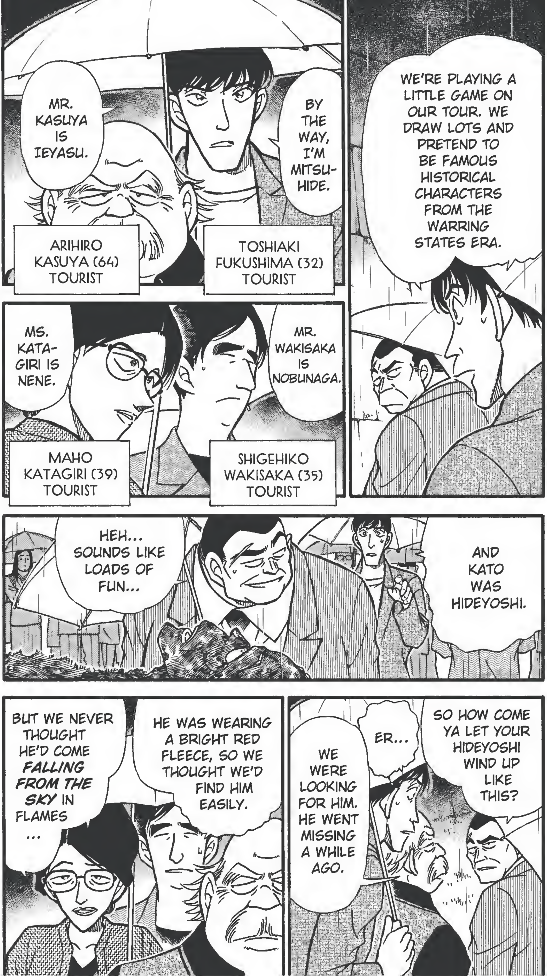
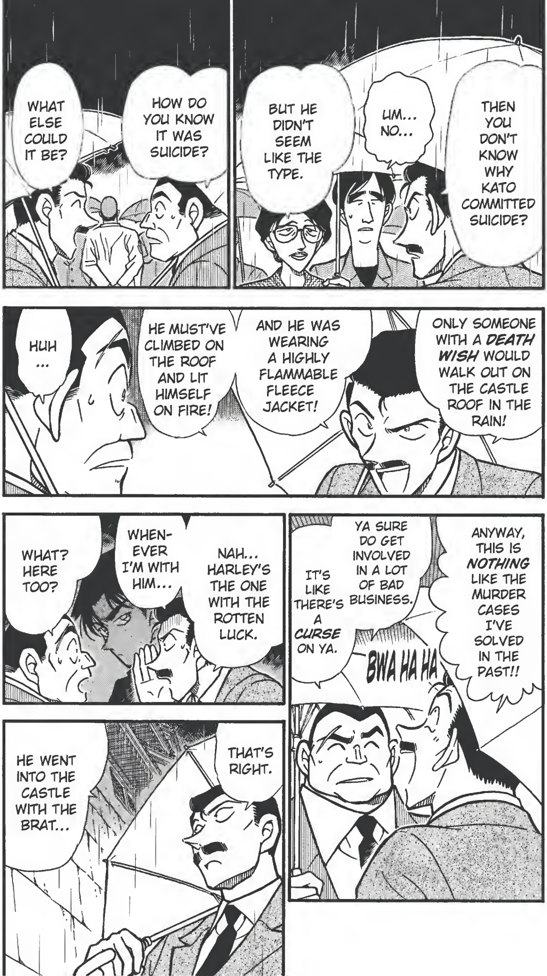
FILE 1: THE CONQUEROR'S TREASURE

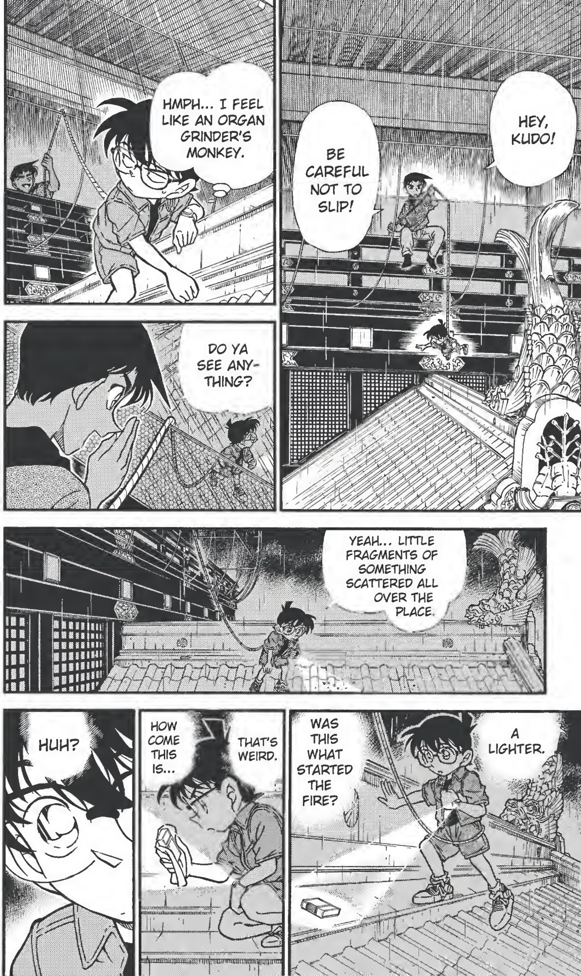


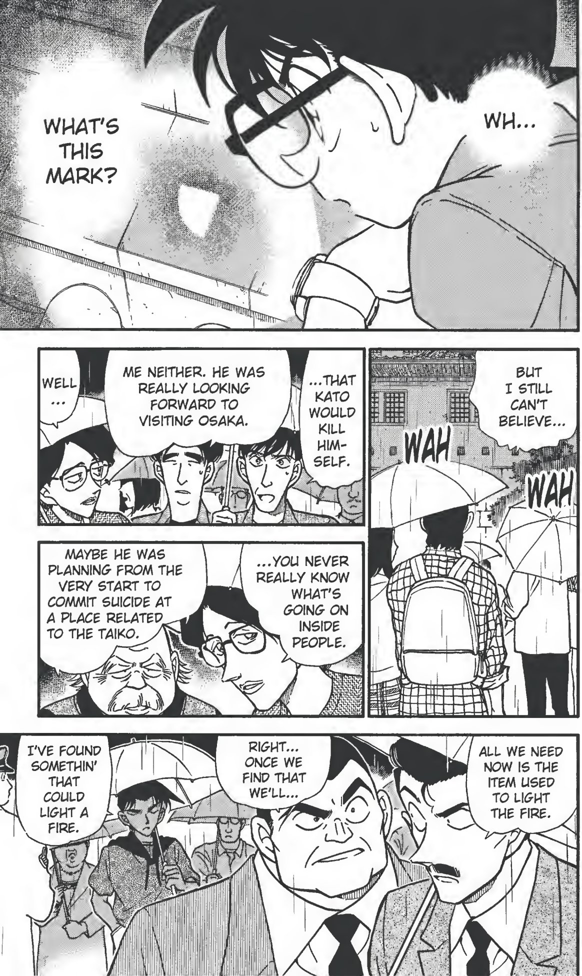

ALL RIGHT!
GIFTS
OSAKA CASTLE
MY WALLET!
YOU OUGHTA THANK ME! I FIGGERED YOU'D COME LOOKIN' FOR IT, SO I DIDN'T HAND IT OVER TO THE POLICE!
GIFT
YA REALLY CARE ABOUT IT, HUH? I NOTICED ALL THE LUCKY CHARMS...
YUP! THANKS A MILLION!
HOW MANY LUCKY CHARMS HAVE YOU *GOT*?
I JUST BOUGHT A NEW ONE THAT WARDS OFF EVIL! I DIDN'T WANT THE OSAKA TRIP SPOILED LIKE LAST TIME...
OH ...
WHAT?
A MAN FELL OFF THE CASTLE KEEP IN FLAMES?
HUH?
IS THAT TRUE?
YEAH... THE COPS ARE HERE AN' THE PLACE IS A MESS!
GUESS IT'S A DUD.
YUP ...

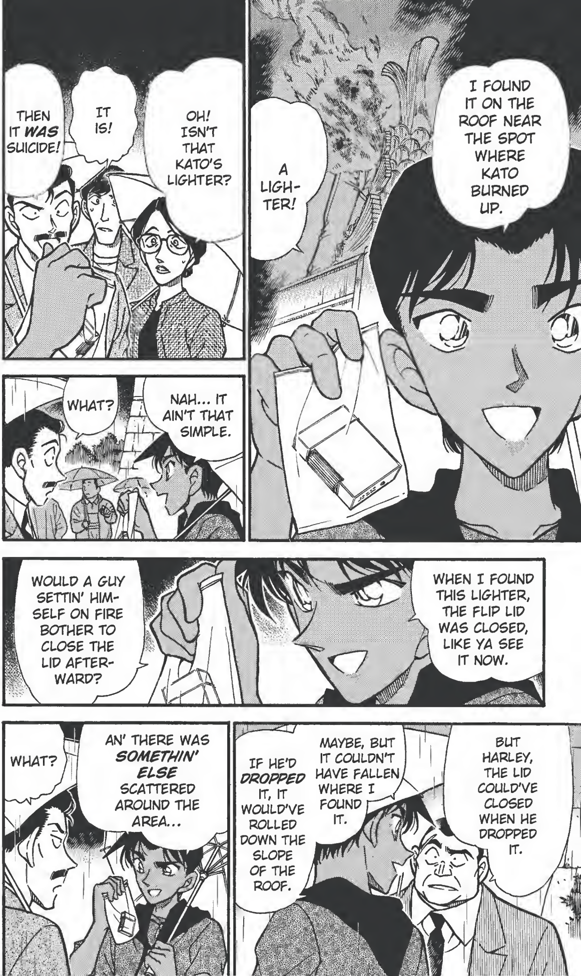

WAH
WAH
WAH
YOU HAVE MY SYMPATHY, INSPECTOR OTAKI.
TWO MURDER CASES IN A ROW...
WELL, THIS *IS* MY JOB.
BUT HOW'D YA KNOW THE STIFF'S NAME WAS YUJI KATO?
I NOTICED HIS BADGE!
YA MEAN THE CREST HE'S WEARIN'?
IT'S HIDEYOSHI'S CREST, THE FIVE-SEVEN PAULOWNIA. I REALIZED HE MUST'VE BEEN THE MAN PLAYING HIDEYOSHI, SO I CALLED HIS TOUR GROUP OVER!
RIGHT?
ER... YES...
HIDEYOSHI? WHAT'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT?

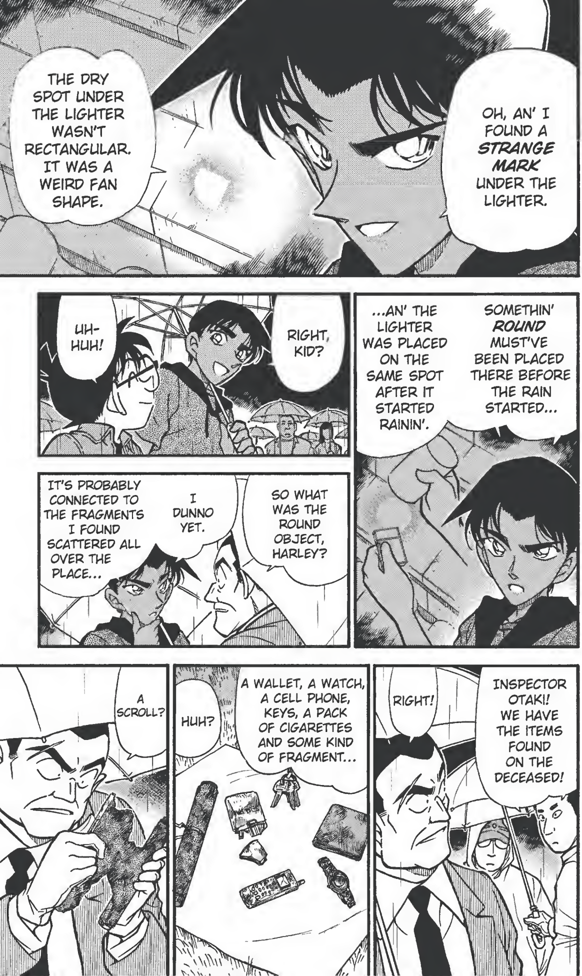

WE'RE PLAYING A LITTLE GAME ON OUR TOUR. WE DRAW LOTS AND PRETEND TO BE FAMOUS HISTORICAL CHARACTERS FROM THE WARRING STATES ERA.
BY THE WAY, I'M MITSUHIDE.
TOSHIAKI FUKUSHIMA (32) TOURIST
MR. KASUYA IS IEYASU.
ARIHIRO KASUYA (64) TOURIST
MR. WAKISAKA IS NOBUNAGA.
SHIGEHIKO WAKISAKA (35) TOURIST
MS. KATAGIRI IS NENE.
MAHO KATAGIRI (39) TOURIST
AND KATO WAS HIDEYOSHI.
HEH... SOUNDS LIKE LOADS OF FUN...
SO HOW COME YA LET YOUR HIDEYOSHI WIND UP LIKE THIS?
ER...
WE WERE LOOKING FOR HIM. HE WENT MISSING A WHILE AGO.
HE WAS WEARING A BRIGHT RED FLEECE, SO WE THOUGHT WE'D FIND HIM EASILY.
BUT WE NEVER THOUGHT HE'D COME *FALLING FROM THE SKY* IN FLAMES...

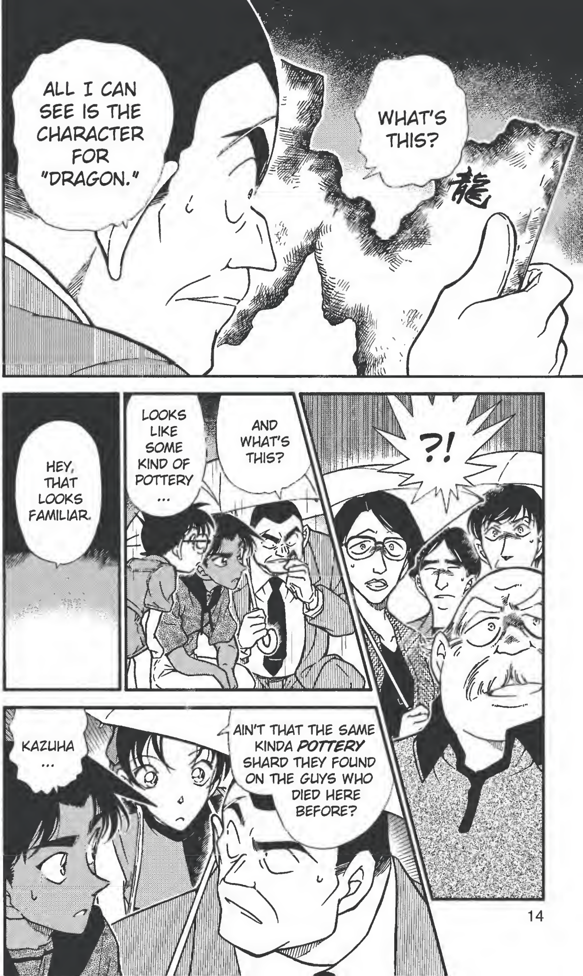

THEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHY KATO COMMITTED SUICIDE?
UM... NO...
BUT HE DIDN'T SEEM LIKE THE TYPE.
HOW DO YOU KNOW IT WAS SUICIDE?
WHAT ELSE COULD IT BE?
ONLY SOMEONE WITH A *DEATH WISH* WOULD WALK OUT ON THE CASTLE ROOF IN THE RAIN!
AND HE WAS WEARING A HIGHLY FLAMMABLE FLEECE JACKET!
HE MUST'VE CLIMBED ON THE ROOF AND LIT HIMSELF ON FIRE!
HUH ...
ANYWAY, THIS IS *NOTHING* LIKE THE MURDER CASES I'VE SOLVED IN THE PAST!!
BWA HA HA
YA SURE DO GET INVOLVED IN A LOT OF BAD BUSINESS.
IT'S LIKE THERE'S A *CURSE* ON YA.
NAH... HARLEY'S THE ONE WITH THE ROTTEN LUCK.
WHEN-EVER I'M WITH HIM...
WHAT? HERE TOO?
THAT'S RIGHT.
HE WENT INTO THE CASTLE WITH THE BRAT...

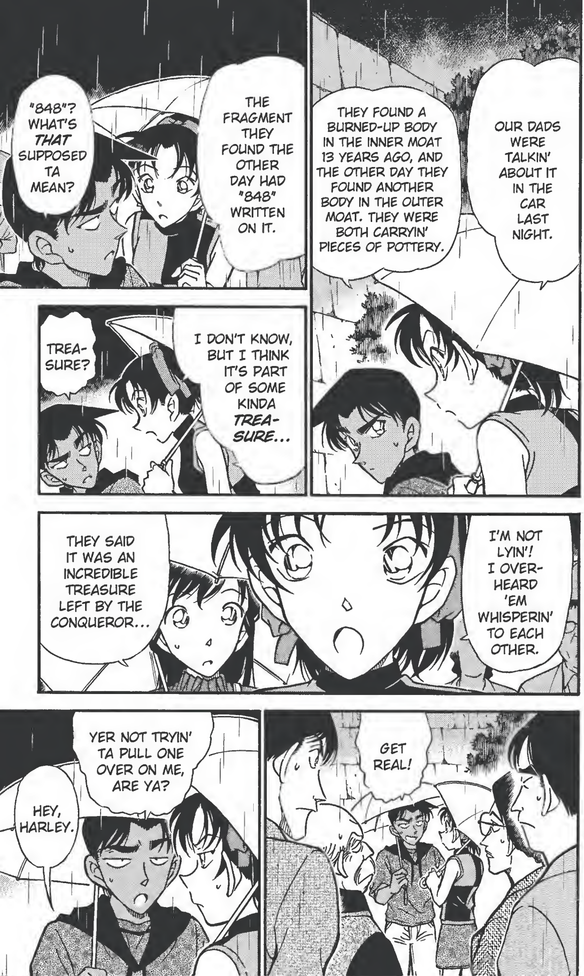

HEY, KUDO!
BE CAREFUL NOT TO SLIP!
HMPH... I FEEL LIKE AN ORGAN GRINDER'S MONKEY.
DO YA SEE ANYTHING?
YEAH... LITTLE FRAGMENTS OF SOMETHING SCATTERED ALL OVER THE PLACE.
A LIGHTER.
WAS THIS WHAT STARTED THE FIRE?
THAT'S WEIRD.
HOW COME THIS IS...
HUH?

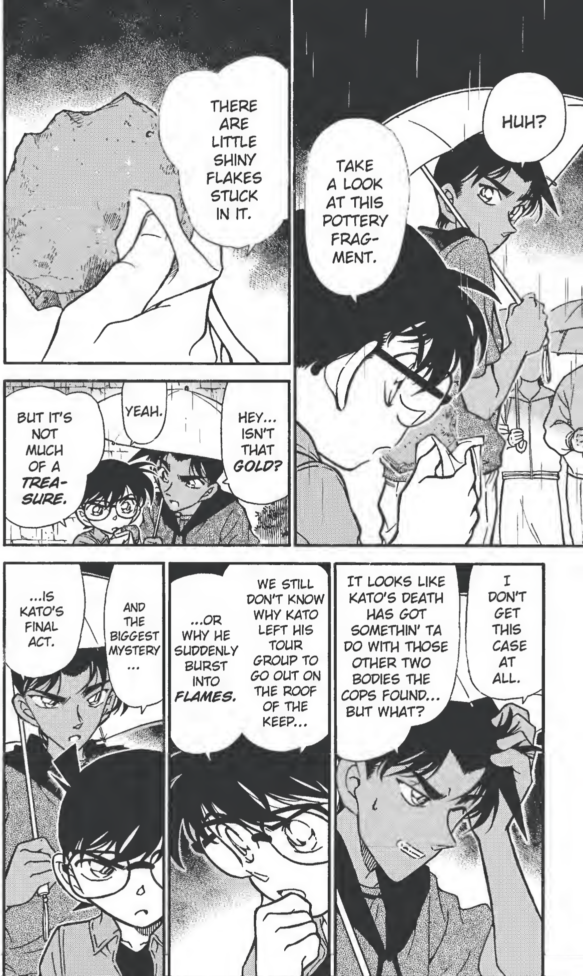

WH...
WHAT'S THIS MARK?
BUT I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE...
WAH
WAH
...THAT KATO WOULD KILL HIMSELF.
ME NEITHER. HE WAS REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO VISITING OSAKA.
WELL...
...YOU NEVER REALLY KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON INSIDE PEOPLE.
MAYBE HE WAS PLANNING FROM THE VERY START TO COMMIT SUICIDE AT A PLACE RELATED TO THE TAIKO.
ALL WE NEED NOW IS THE ITEM USED TO LIGHT THE FIRE.
RIGHT... ONCE WE FIND THAT WE'LL...
I'VE FOUND SOMETHIN' THAT COULD LIGHT A FIRE.

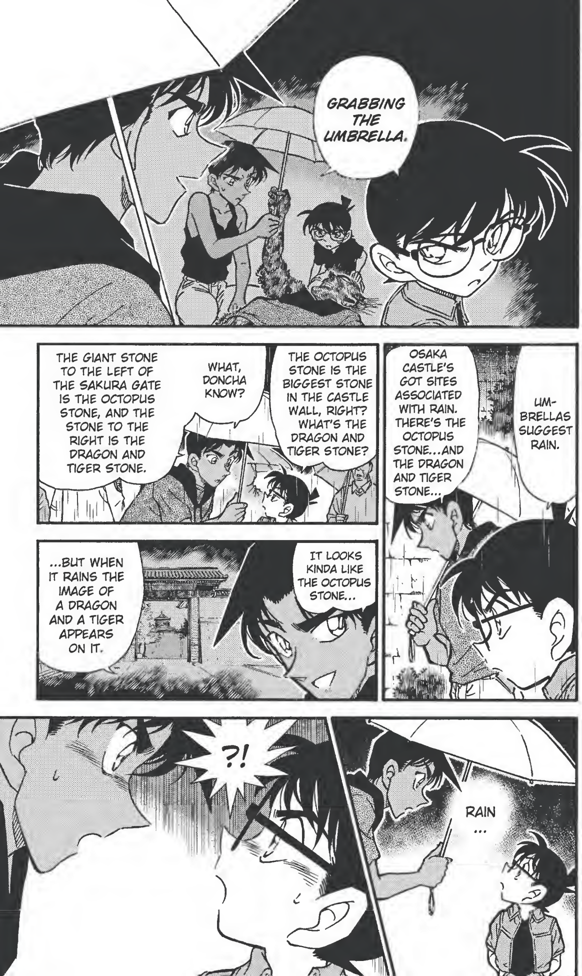

I FOUND IT ON THE ROOF NEAR THE SPOT WHERE KATO BURNED UP.
A LIGHTER!
OH! ISN'T THAT KATO'S LIGHTER?
IT IS!
THEN IT *WAS* SUICIDE!
NAH... IT AIN'T THAT SIMPLE.
WHAT?
WHEN I FOUND THIS LIGHTER, THE FLIP LID WAS CLOSED, LIKE YA SEE IT NOW.
WOULD A GUY SETTIN' HIMSELF ON FIRE BOTHER TO CLOSE THE LID AFTERWARD?
BUT HARLEY, THE LID COULD'VE CLOSED WHEN HE DROPPED IT.
MAYBE, BUT IT COULDN'T HAVE FALLEN WHERE I FOUND IT.
IF HE'D *DROPPED* IT, IT WOULD'VE ROLLED DOWN THE SLOPE OF THE ROOF.
AN' THERE WAS *SOMETHIN' ELSE* SCATTERED AROUND THE AREA...
WHAT?

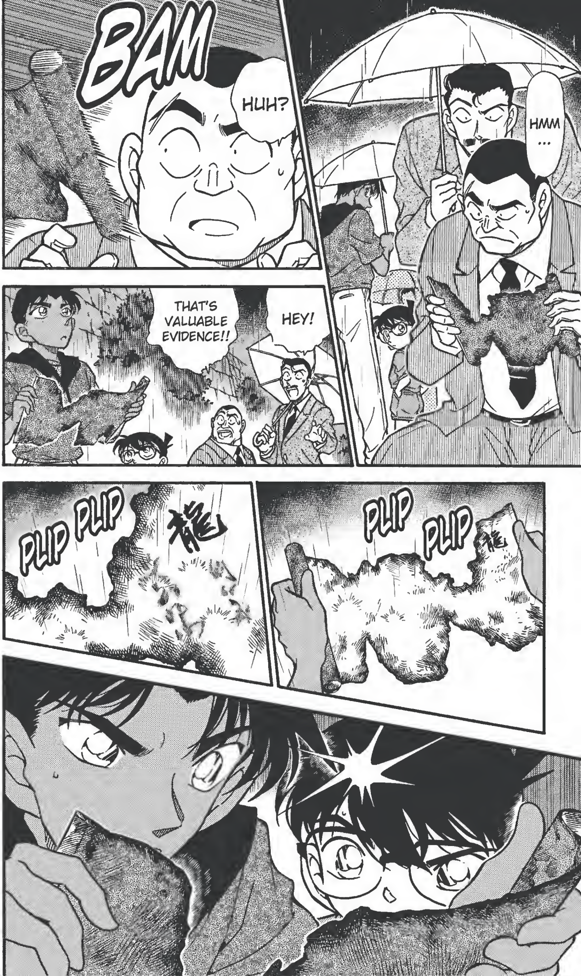

OH, AN' I FOUND A ***STRANGE MARK*** UNDER THE LIGHTER.
THE DRY SPOT UNDER THE LIGHTER WASN'T RECTANGULAR. IT WAS A WEIRD FAN SHAPE.
SOMETHIN' ***ROUND*** MUST'VE BEEN PLACED THERE BEFORE THE RAIN STARTED...
...AN' THE LIGHTER WAS PLACED ON THE SAME SPOT AFTER IT STARTED RAININ'.
RIGHT, KID?
UH-HUH!
SO WHAT WAS THE ROUND OBJECT, HARLEY?
I DUNNO YET.
IT'S PROBABLY CONNECTED TO THE FRAGMENTS I FOUND SCATTERED ALL OVER THE PLACE...
INSPECTOR OTAKI! WE HAVE THE ITEMS FOUND ON THE DECEASED!
RIGHT!
A WALLET, A WATCH, A CELL PHONE, KEYS, A PACK OF CIGARETTES AND SOME KIND OF FRAGMENT...
HUH?
A SCROLL?

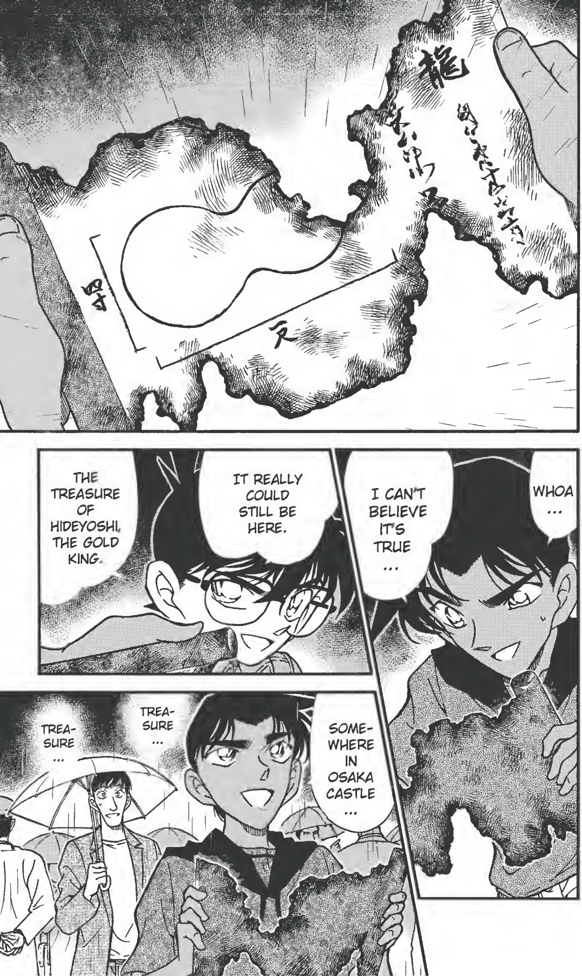

WHAT'S THIS?
龍
ALL I CAN SEE IS THE CHARACTER FOR "DRAGON."
?!
AND WHAT'S THIS?
LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF POTTERY ...
HEY, THAT LOOKS FAMILIAR.
AIN'T THAT THE SAME KINDA *POTTERY* SHARD THEY FOUND ON THE GUYS WHO DIED HERE BEFORE?
KAZUHA ...

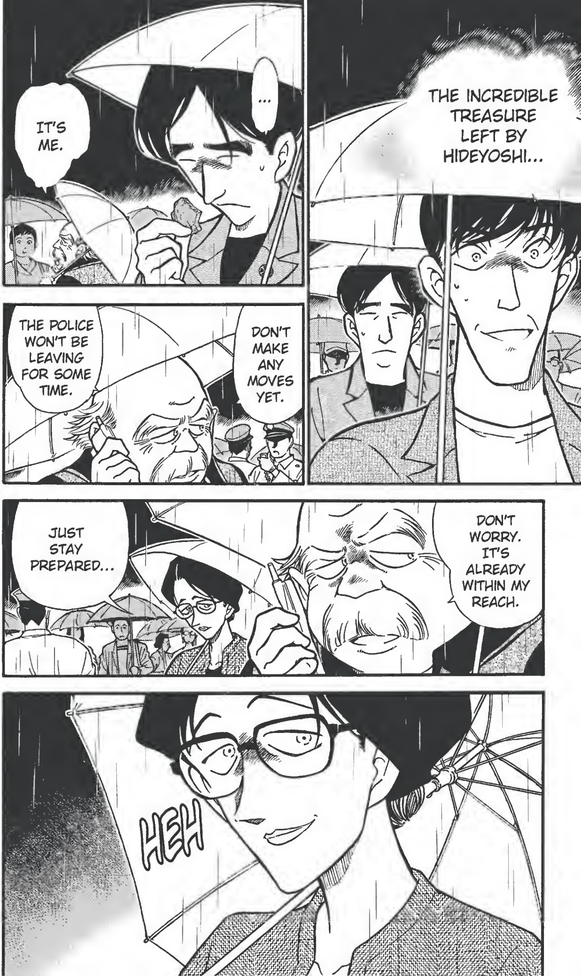

OUR DADS WERE TALKIN' ABOUT IT IN THE CAR LAST NIGHT.
THEY FOUND A BURNED-UP BODY IN THE INNER MOAT 13 YEARS AGO, AND THE OTHER DAY THEY FOUND ANOTHER BODY IN THE OUTER MOAT. THEY WERE BOTH CARRYIN' PIECES OF POTTERY.
THE FRAGMENT THEY FOUND THE OTHER DAY HAD "848" WRITTEN ON IT.
"848"? WHAT'S *THAT* SUPPOSED TA MEAN?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT I THINK IT'S PART OF SOME KINDA *TREASURE...*
TREASURE?
I'M NOT LYIN'! I OVERHEARD 'EM WHISPERIN' TO EACH OTHER.
THEY SAID IT WAS AN INCREDIBLE TREASURE LEFT BY THE CONQUEROR...
GET REAL!
YER NOT TRYIN' TA PULL ONE OVER ON ME, ARE YA?
HEY, HARLEY.


HUH?
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS POTTERY FRAGMENT.
THERE ARE LITTLE SHINY FLAKES STUCK IN IT.
HEY... ISN'T THAT *GOLD?*
YEAH.
BUT IT'S NOT MUCH OF A *TREASURE.*
I DON'T GET THIS CASE AT ALL.
IT LOOKS LIKE KATO'S DEATH HAS GOT SOMETHIN' TA DO WITH THOSE OTHER TWO BODIES THE COPS FOUND... BUT WHAT?
WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHY KATO LEFT HIS TOUR GROUP TO GO OUT ON THE ROOF OF THE KEEP...
...OR WHY HE SUDDENLY BURST INTO *FLAMES.*
AND THE BIGGEST MYSTERY...
...IS KATO'S FINAL ACT.

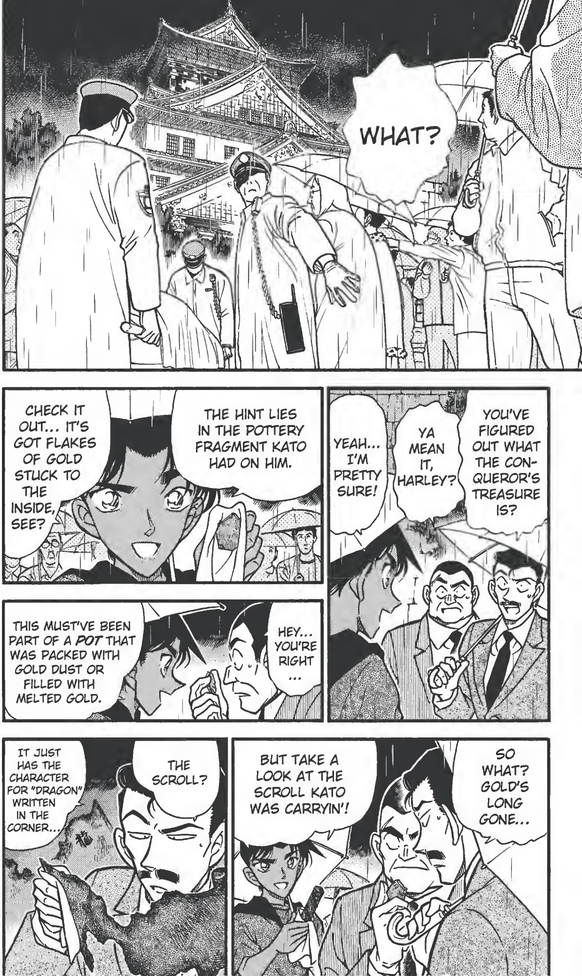

GRABBING THE UMBRELLA.
UMBRELLAS SUGGEST RAIN.
OSAKA CASTLE'S GOT SITES ASSOCIATED WITH RAIN. THERE'S THE OCTOPUS STONE...AND THE DRAGON AND TIGER STONE...
THE OCTOPUS STONE IS THE BIGGEST STONE IN THE CASTLE WALL, RIGHT? WHAT'S THE DRAGON AND TIGER STONE?
WHAT, DONCHA KNOW?
THE GIANT STONE TO THE LEFT OF THE SAKURA GATE IS THE OCTOPUS STONE, AND THE STONE TO THE RIGHT IS THE DRAGON AND TIGER STONE.
IT LOOKS KINDA LIKE THE OCTOPUS STONE...
...BUT WHEN IT RAINS THE IMAGE OF A DRAGON AND A TIGER APPEARS ON IT.
RAIN...
?!

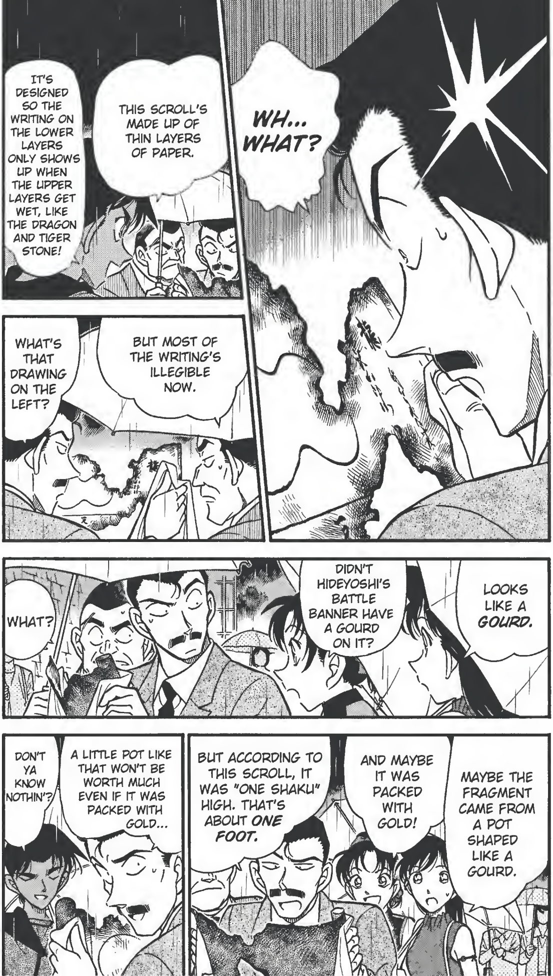

HMM ...
BAM
HUH?
HEY!
THAT'S VALUABLE EVIDENCE!!
PLIP
PLIP
龍
PLIP PLIP
龍

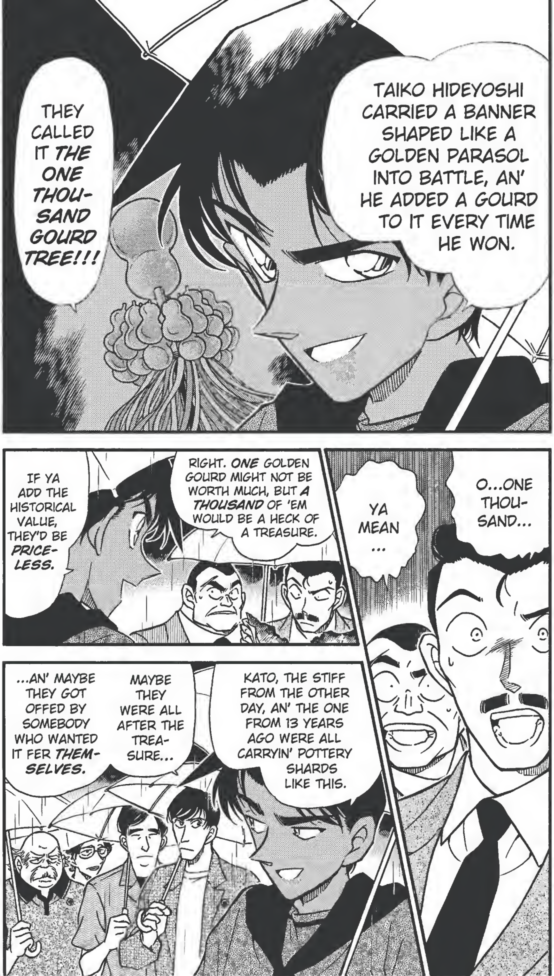

龍
四寸
WHOA …
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S TRUE …
IT REALLY COULD STILL BE HERE.
THE TREASURE OF HIDEYOSHI, THE GOLD KING.
SOMEWHERE IN OSAKA CASTLE …
TREASURE …
TREASURE …

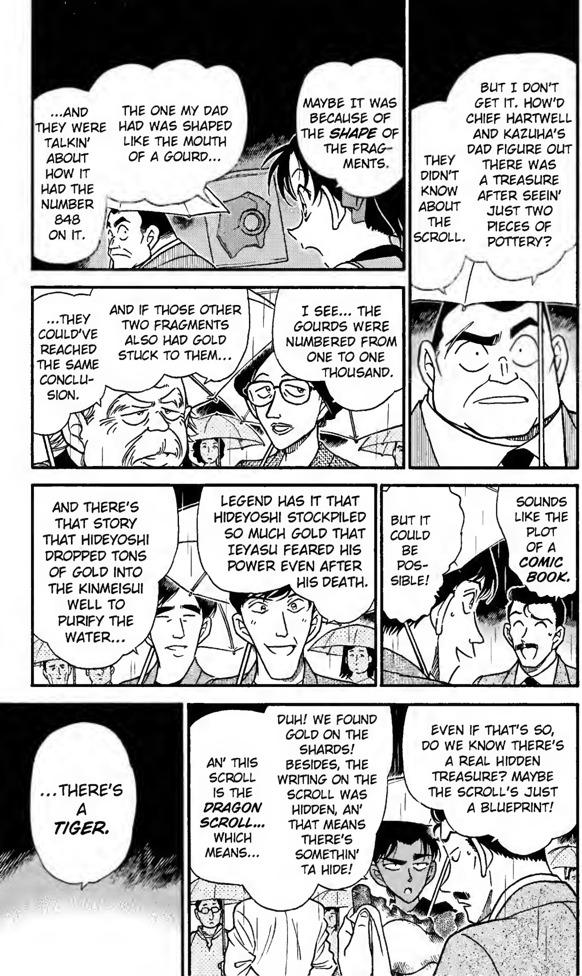

THE INCREDIBLE TREASURE LEFT BY HIDEYOSHI...
...
IT'S ME.
DON'T MAKE ANY MOVES YET.
THE POLICE WON'T BE LEAVING FOR SOME TIME.
DON'T WORRY. IT'S ALREADY WITHIN MY REACH.
JUST STAY PREPARED...
HEH

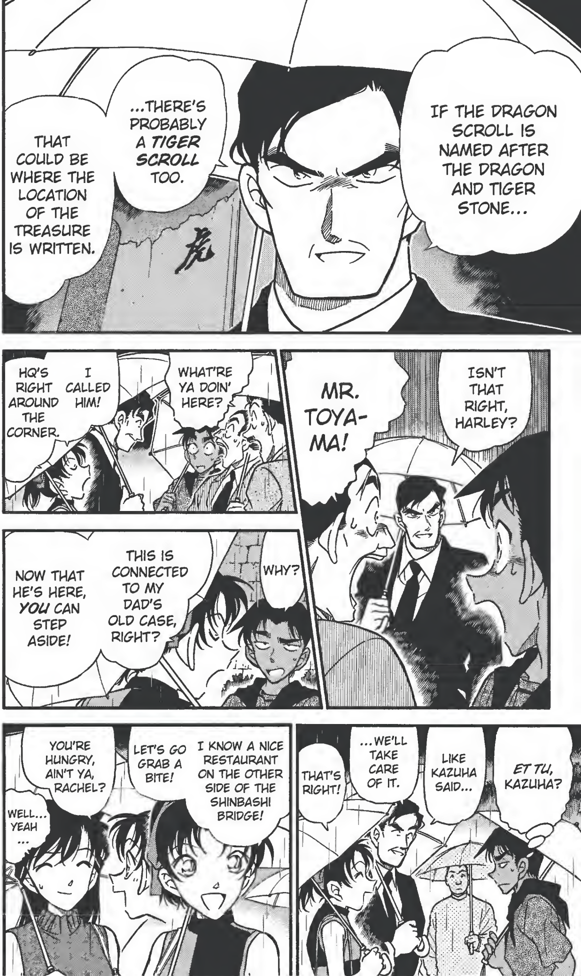
FILE 2:
OUT OF THE PAST

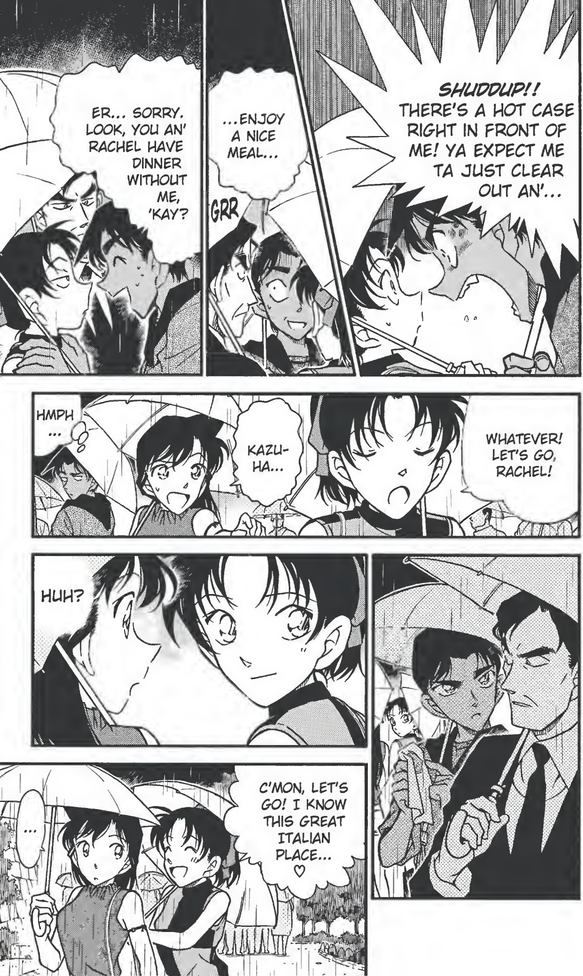

WHAT?
YOU'VE FIGURED OUT WHAT THE CONQUEROR'S TREASURE IS?
YA MEAN IT, HARLEY?
YEAH... I'M PRETTY SURE!
THE HINT LIES IN THE POTTERY FRAGMENT KATO HAD ON HIM.
CHECK IT OUT... IT'S GOT FLAKES OF GOLD STUCK TO THE INSIDE, SEE?
THIS MUST'VE BEEN PART OF A *POT* THAT WAS PACKED WITH GOLD DUST OR FILLED WITH MELTED GOLD.
HEY... YOU'RE RIGHT...
SO WHAT? GOLD'S LONG GONE...
BUT TAKE A LOOK AT THE SCROLL KATO WAS CARRYIN'!
THE SCROLL?
IT JUST HAS THE CHARACTER FOR "DRAGON" WRITTEN IN THE CORNER...

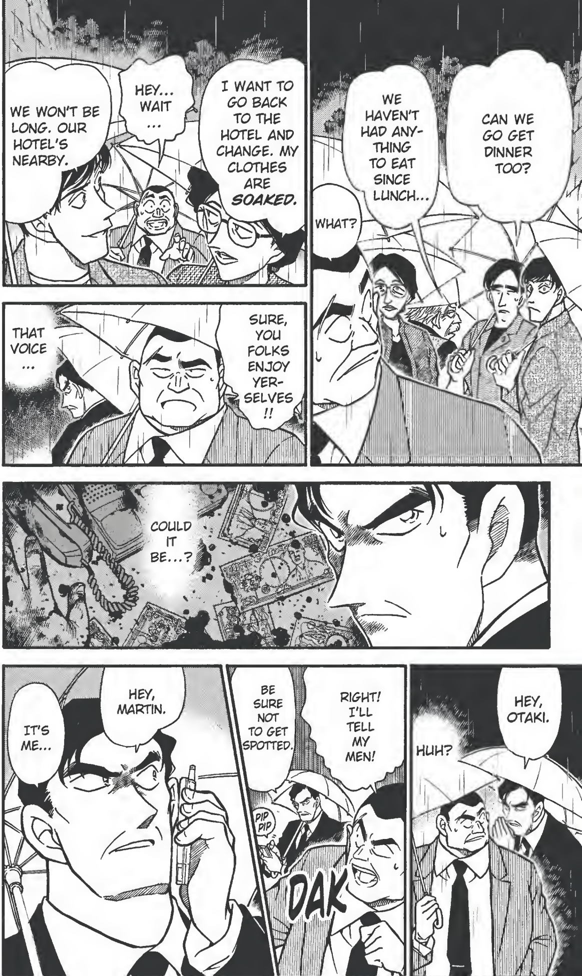

WH... WHAT?
THIS SCROLL'S MADE UP OF THIN LAYERS OF PAPER.
IT'S DESIGNED SO THE WRITING ON THE LOWER LAYERS ONLY SHOWS UP WHEN THE UPPER LAYERS GET WET, LIKE THE DRAGON AND TIGER STONE!
BUT MOST OF THE WRITING'S ILLEGIBLE NOW.
WHAT'S THAT DRAWING ON THE LEFT?
LOOKS LIKE A **GOURD.**
DIDN'T HIDEYOSHI'S BATTLE BANNER HAVE A GOURD ON IT?
WHAT?
MAYBE THE FRAGMENT CAME FROM A POT SHAPED LIKE A GOURD.
AND MAYBE IT WAS PACKED WITH GOLD!
BUT ACCORDING TO THIS SCROLL, IT WAS "ONE SHAKU" HIGH. THAT'S ABOUT *ONE FOOT.*
A LITTLE POT LIKE THAT WON'T BE WORTH MUCH EVEN IF IT WAS PACKED WITH GOLD...
DON'T YA KNOW NOTHIN'?

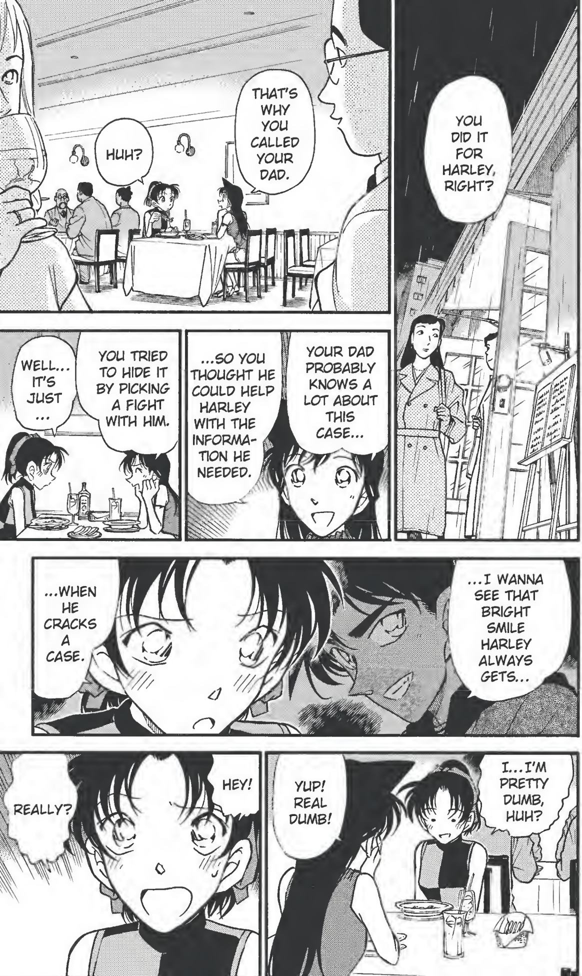

TAIKO HIDEYOSHI CARRIED A BANNER SHAPED LIKE A GOLDEN PARASOL INTO BATTLE, AN' HE ADDED A GOURD TO IT EVERY TIME HE WON.
THEY CALLED IT *THE ONE THOUSAND GOURD TREE!!!*
O...ONE THOUSAND...
YA MEAN...
RIGHT. *ONE* GOLDEN GOURD MIGHT NOT BE WORTH MUCH, BUT *A THOUSAND* OF 'EM WOULD BE A HECK OF A TREASURE.
IF YA ADD THE HISTORICAL VALUE, THEY'D BE *PRICELESS.*
KATO, THE STIFF FROM THE OTHER DAY, AN' THE ONE FROM 13 YEARS AGO WERE ALL CARRYIN' POTTERY SHARDS LIKE THIS.
MAYBE THEY WERE ALL AFTER THE TREASURE...
...AN' MAYBE THEY GOT OFFED BY SOMEBODY WHO WANTED IT FER *THEMSELVES.*

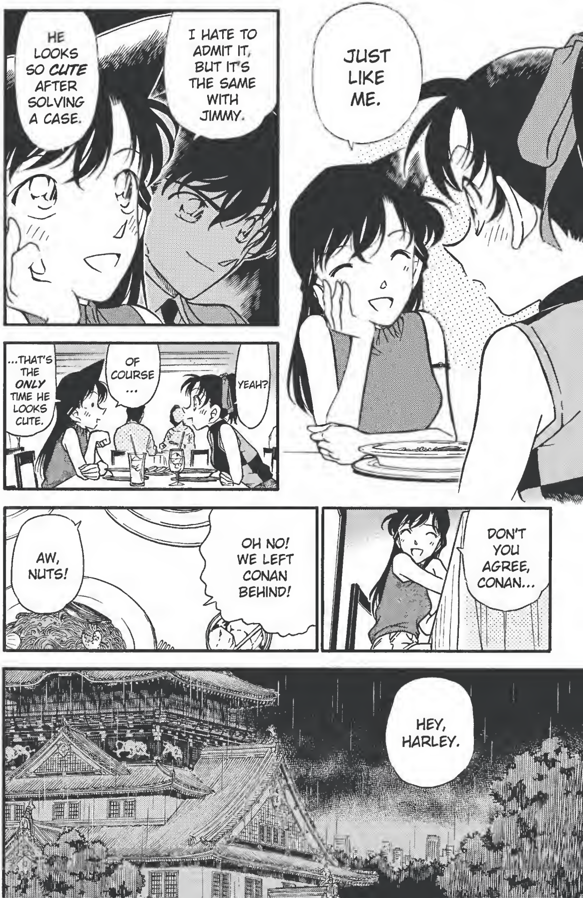

BUT I DON'T GET IT. HOW'D CHIEF HARTWELL AND KAZUHA'S DAD FIGURE OUT THERE WAS A TREASURE AFTER SEEIN' JUST TWO PIECES OF POTTERY?
THEY DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE SCROLL.
MAYBE IT WAS BECAUSE OF THE *SHAPE* OF THE FRAGMENTS.
THE ONE MY DAD HAD WAS SHAPED LIKE THE MOUTH OF A GOURD...
...AND THEY WERE TALKIN' ABOUT HOW IT HAD THE NUMBER 848 ON IT.
I SEE... THE GOURDS WERE NUMBERED FROM ONE TO ONE THOUSAND.
AND IF THOSE OTHER TWO FRAGMENTS ALSO HAD GOLD STUCK TO THEM...
...THEY COULD'VE REACHED THE SAME CONCLUSION.
SOUNDS LIKE THE PLOT OF A *COMIC BOOK.*
BUT IT COULD BE POSSIBLE!
LEGEND HAS IT THAT HIDEYOSHI STOCKPILED SO MUCH GOLD THAT IEYASU FEARED HIS POWER EVEN AFTER HIS DEATH.
AND THERE'S THAT STORY THAT HIDEYOSHI DROPPED TONS OF GOLD INTO THE KINMEISUI WELL TO PURIFY THE WATER...
EVEN IF THAT'S SO, DO WE KNOW THERE'S A REAL HIDDEN TREASURE? MAYBE THE SCROLL'S JUST A BLUEPRINT!
DUH! WE FOUND GOLD ON THE SHARDS! BESIDES, THE WRITING ON THE SCROLL WAS HIDDEN, AN' THAT MEANS THERE'S SOMETHIN' TA HIDE!
AN' THIS SCROLL IS THE *DRAGON SCROLL...* WHICH MEANS...
...THERE'S A *TIGER.*

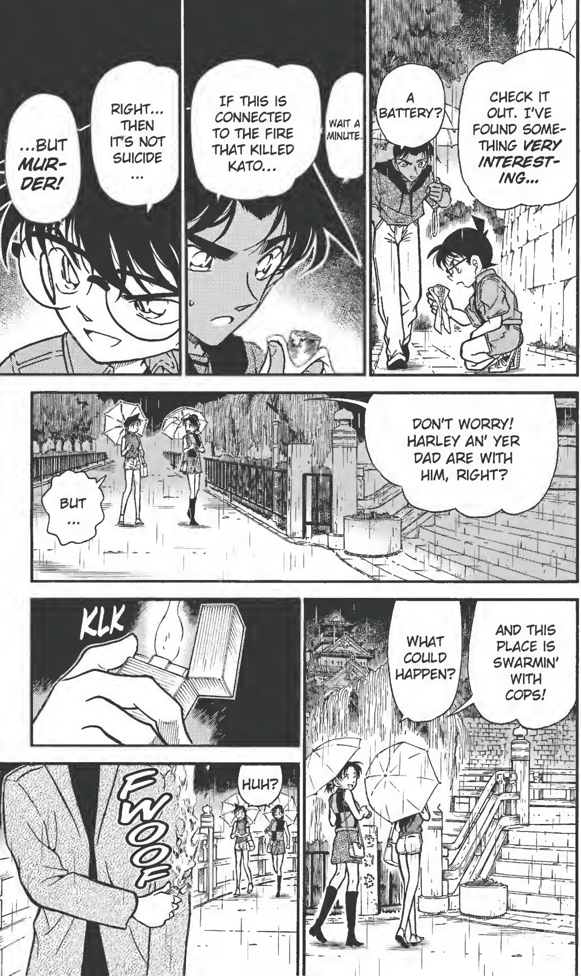

IF THE DRAGON SCROLL IS NAMED AFTER THE DRAGON AND TIGER STONE...
...THERE'S PROBABLY A *TIGER SCROLL* TOO.
THAT COULD BE WHERE THE LOCATION OF THE TREASURE IS WRITTEN.
虎
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, HARLEY?
MR. TOYAMA!
WHAT'RE YA DOIN' HERE?
I CALLED HIM!
HQ'S RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER.
WHY?
THIS IS CONNECTED TO MY DAD'S OLD CASE, RIGHT?
NOW THAT HE'S HERE, *YOU* CAN STEP ASIDE!
ET TU, KAZUHA?
LIKE KAZUHA SAID...
...WE'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.
THAT'S RIGHT!
I KNOW A NICE RESTAURANT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SHINBASHI BRIDGE!
LET'S GO GRAB A BITE!
YOU'RE HUNGRY, AIN'T YA, RACHEL?
WELL... YEAH ...

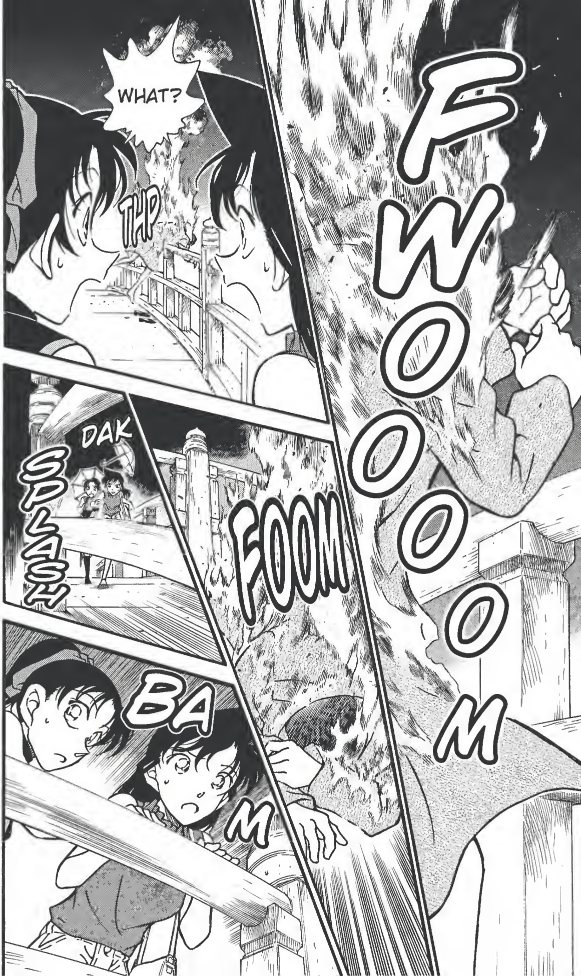

ER... SORRY. LOOK, YOU AN' RACHEL HAVE DINNER WITHOUT ME, 'KAY?
...ENJOY A NICE MEAL...
GRR
SHUDDUP!! THERE'S A HOT CASE RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME! YA EXPECT ME TA JUST CLEAR OUT AN'...
HMPH ...
KAZU-HA...
WHATEVER! LET'S GO, RACHEL!
HUH?
...
C'MON, LET'S GO! I KNOW THIS GREAT ITALIAN PLACE... ♡

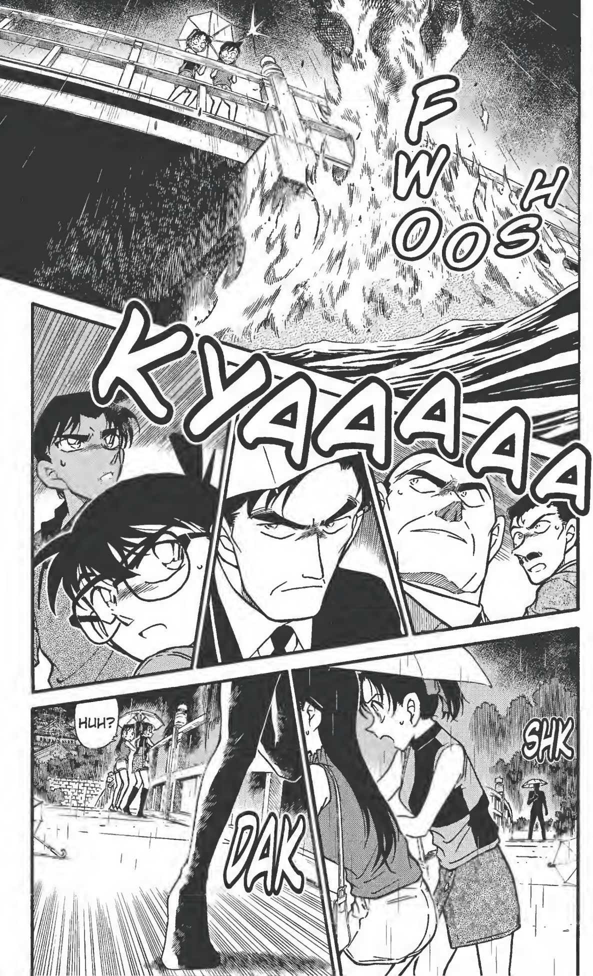

CAN WE GO GET DINNER TOO?
WE HAVEN'T HAD ANYTHING TO EAT SINCE LUNCH...
WHAT?
I WANT TO GO BACK TO THE HOTEL AND CHANGE. MY CLOTHES ARE *SOAKED.*
HEY... WAIT...
WE WON'T BE LONG. OUR HOTEL'S NEARBY.
SURE, YOU FOLKS ENJOY YERSELVES!!
THAT VOICE...
COULD IT BE...?
HEY, OTAKI.
HUH?
RIGHT! I'LL TELL MY MEN!
BE SURE NOT TO GET SPOTTED.
PIP PIP
DAK
HEY, MARTIN.
IT'S ME...

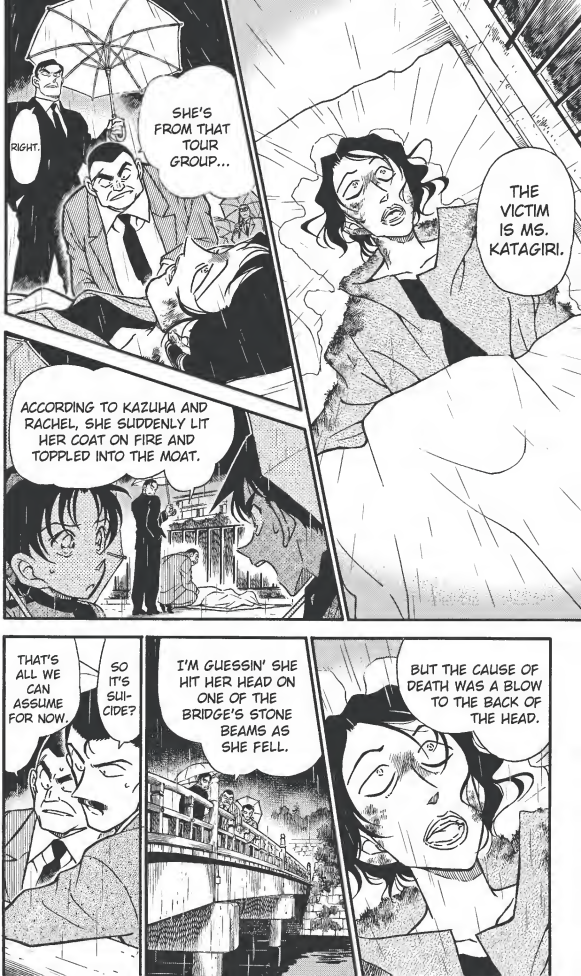

YOU DID IT FOR HARLEY, RIGHT?
THAT'S WHY YOU CALLED YOUR DAD.
HUH?
YOUR DAD PROBABLY KNOWS A LOT ABOUT THIS CASE...
...SO YOU THOUGHT HE COULD HELP HARLEY WITH THE INFORMATION HE NEEDED.
YOU TRIED TO HIDE IT BY PICKING A FIGHT WITH HIM.
WELL... IT'S JUST ...
...I WANNA SEE THAT BRIGHT SMILE HARLEY ALWAYS GETS...
...WHEN HE CRACKS A CASE.
I...I'M PRETTY DUMB, HUH?
YUP! REAL DUMB!
HEY!
REALLY?

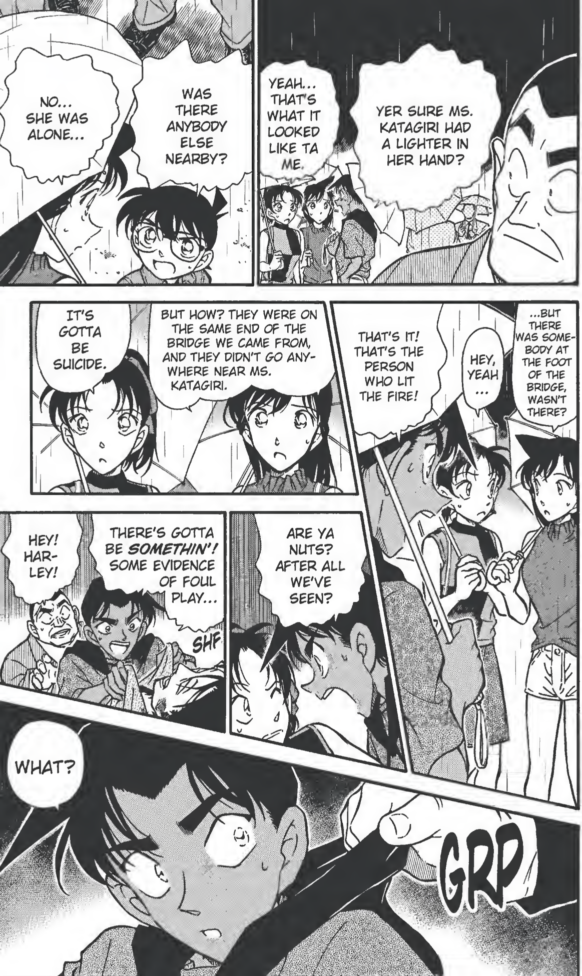

I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT IT'S THE SAME WITH JIMMY.
HE LOOKS SO *CUTE* AFTER SOLVING A CASE.
JUST LIKE ME.
YEAH?
OF COURSE...
...THAT'S THE *ONLY* TIME HE LOOKS CUTE.
DON'T YOU AGREE, CONAN...
OH NO! WE LEFT CONAN BEHIND!
AW, NUTS!
HEY, HARLEY.

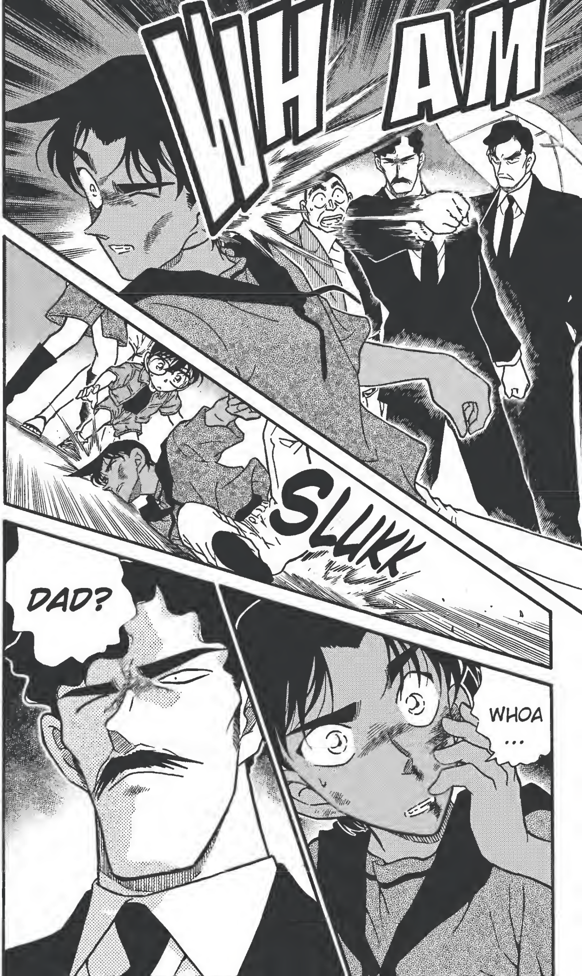

CHECK IT OUT. I'VE FOUND SOMETHING *VERY INTERESTING...*
A BATTERY?
WAIT A MINUTE.
IF THIS IS CONNECTED TO THE FIRE THAT KILLED KATO...
RIGHT... THEN IT'S NOT SUICIDE...
...BUT *MURDER!*
DON'T WORRY! HARLEY AN' YER DAD ARE WITH HIM, RIGHT?
BUT ...
AND THIS PLACE IS SWARMIN' WITH COPS!
WHAT COULD HAPPEN?
KLK
HUH?
FWOOF


FWOOOOOOM
WHAT?
THP
FOOM
DAK
SPLASH
BAM


FWOOSH
KYAAAAA
HUH?
SHK
DAK

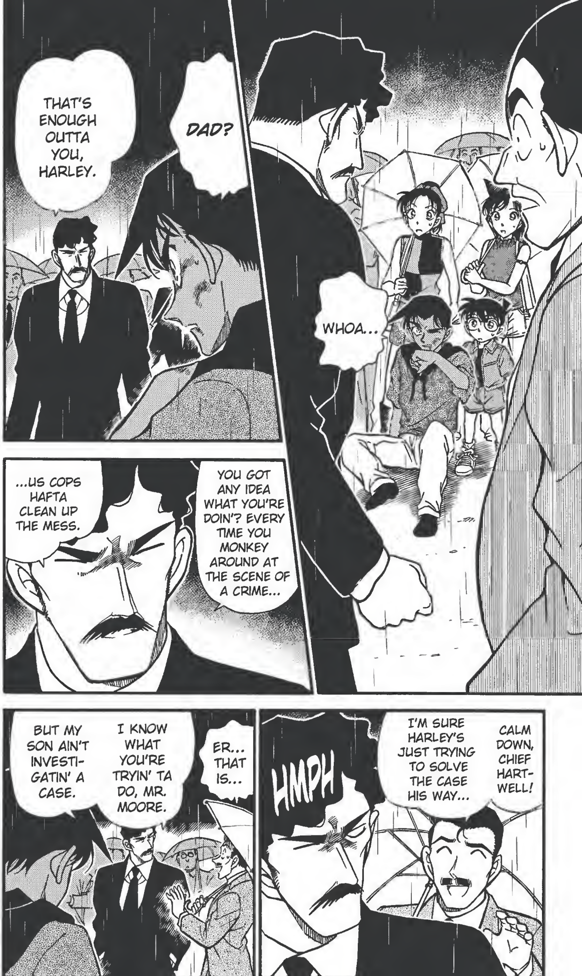

THE VICTIM IS MS. KATAGIRI.
SHE'S FROM THAT TOUR GROUP...
RIGHT.
ACCORDING TO KAZUHA AND RACHEL, SHE SUDDENLY LIT HER COAT ON FIRE AND TOPPLED INTO THE MOAT.
BUT THE CAUSE OF DEATH WAS A BLOW TO THE BACK OF THE HEAD.
I'M GUESSIN' SHE HIT HER HEAD ON ONE OF THE BRIDGE'S STONE BEAMS AS SHE FELL.
SO IT'S SUICIDE?
THAT'S ALL WE CAN ASSUME FOR NOW.

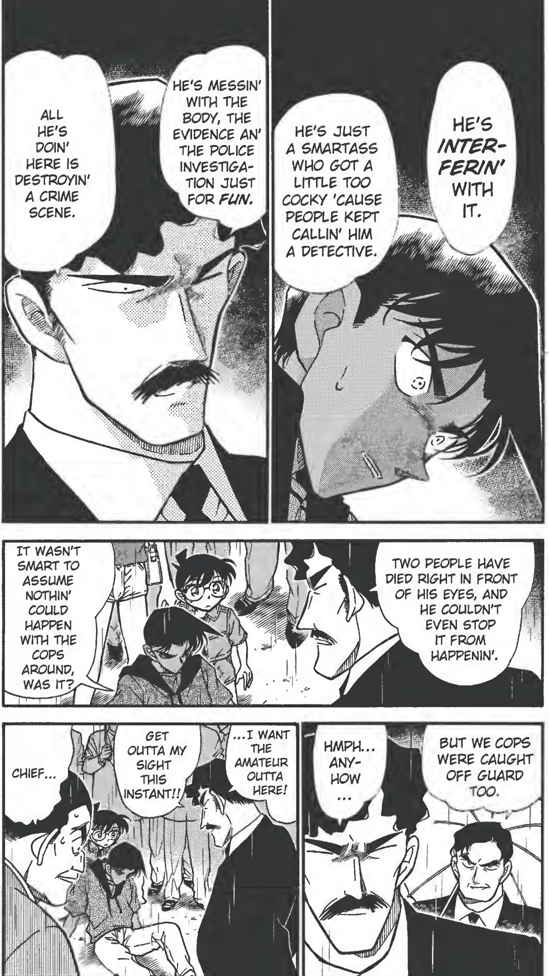

YER SURE MS. KATAGIRI HAD A LIGHTER IN HER HAND?
YEAH... THAT'S WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE TA ME.
WAS THERE ANYBODY ELSE NEARBY?
NO... SHE WAS ALONE...
...BUT THERE WAS SOMEBODY AT THE FOOT OF THE BRIDGE, WASN'T THERE?
HEY, YEAH...
THAT'S IT! THAT'S THE PERSON WHO LIT THE FIRE!
BUT HOW? THEY WERE ON THE SAME END OF THE BRIDGE WE CAME FROM, AND THEY DIDN'T GO ANYWHERE NEAR MS. KATAGIRI.
IT'S GOTTA BE SUICIDE.
ARE YA NUTS? AFTER ALL WE'VE SEEN?
THERE'S GOTTA BE *SOMETHIN'*! SOME EVIDENCE OF FOUL PLAY...
SHF
HEY! HARLEY!
GRP
WHAT?

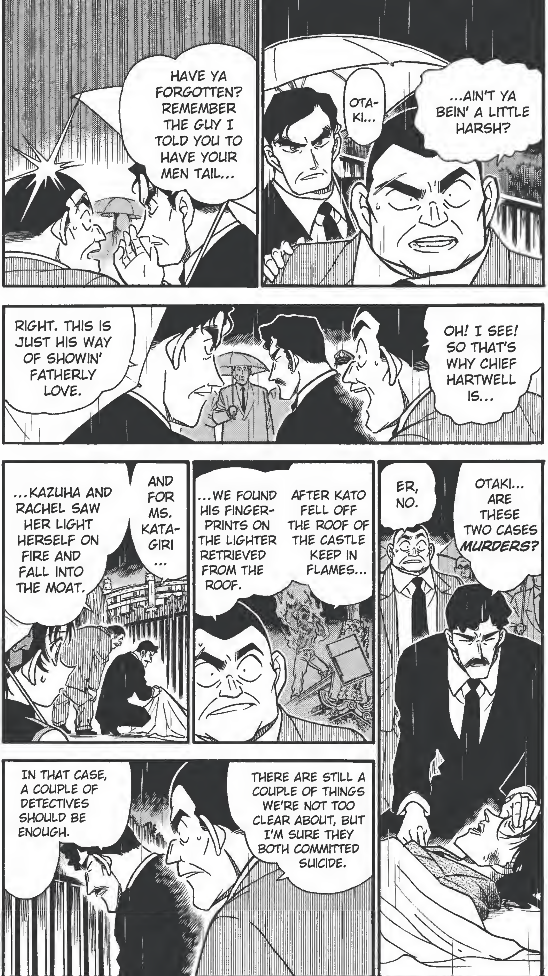

WH AM
SLUKK
WHOA ...
DAD?

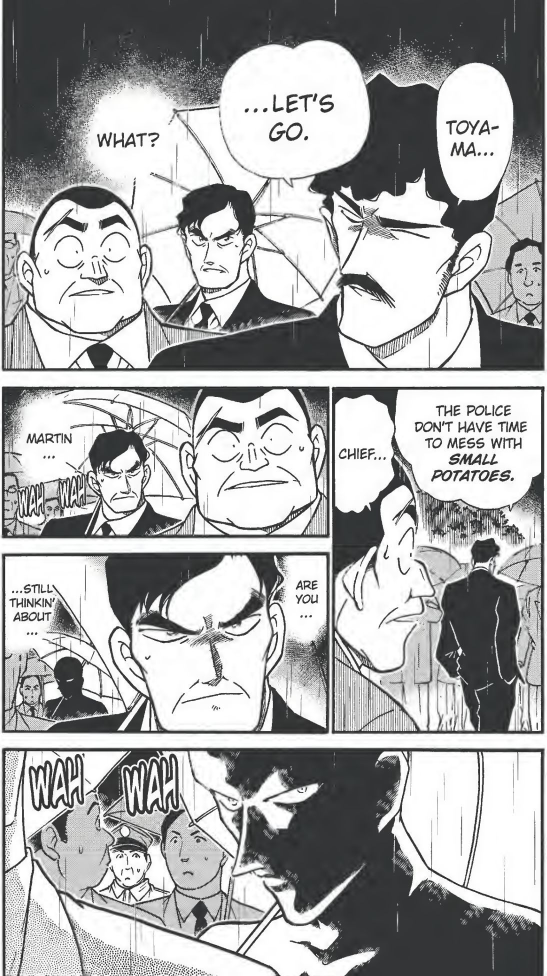
FILE 3:

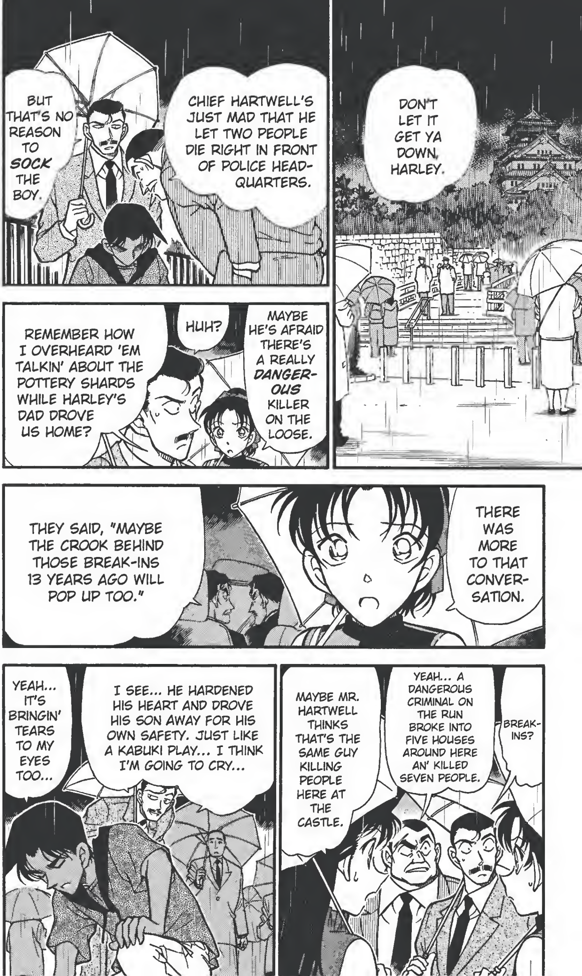
OSAKA KABUKI

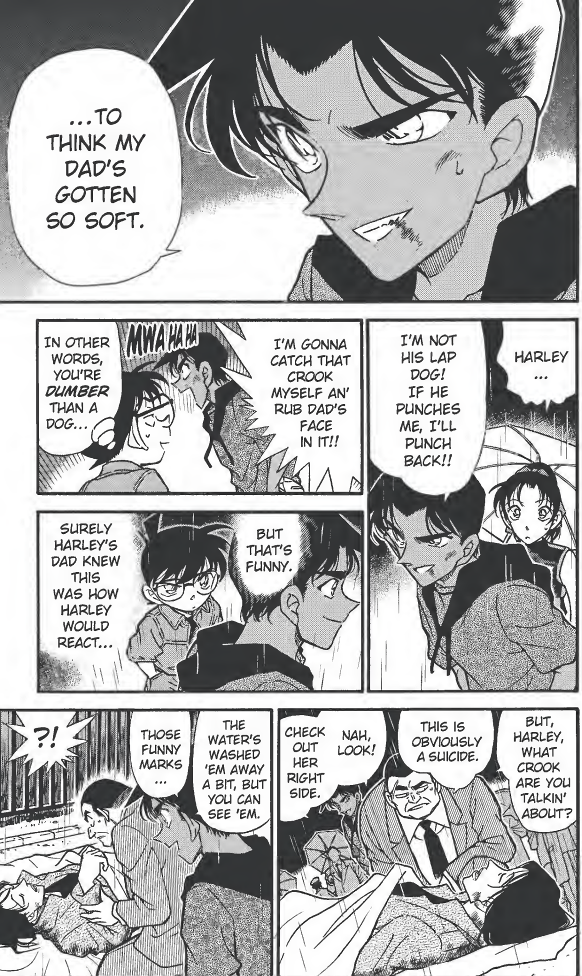

WHOA...
DAD?
THAT'S ENOUGH OUTTA YOU, HARLEY.
YOU GOT ANY IDEA WHAT YOU'RE DOIN'? EVERY TIME YOU MONKEY AROUND AT THE SCENE OF A CRIME...
...US COPS HAFTA CLEAN UP THE MESS.
CALM DOWN, CHIEF HARTWELL!
I'M SURE HARLEY'S JUST TRYING TO SOLVE THE CASE HIS WAY...
HMPH
ER... THAT IS...
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TRYIN' TA DO, MR. MOORE.
BUT MY SON AIN'T INVESTIGATIN' A CASE.

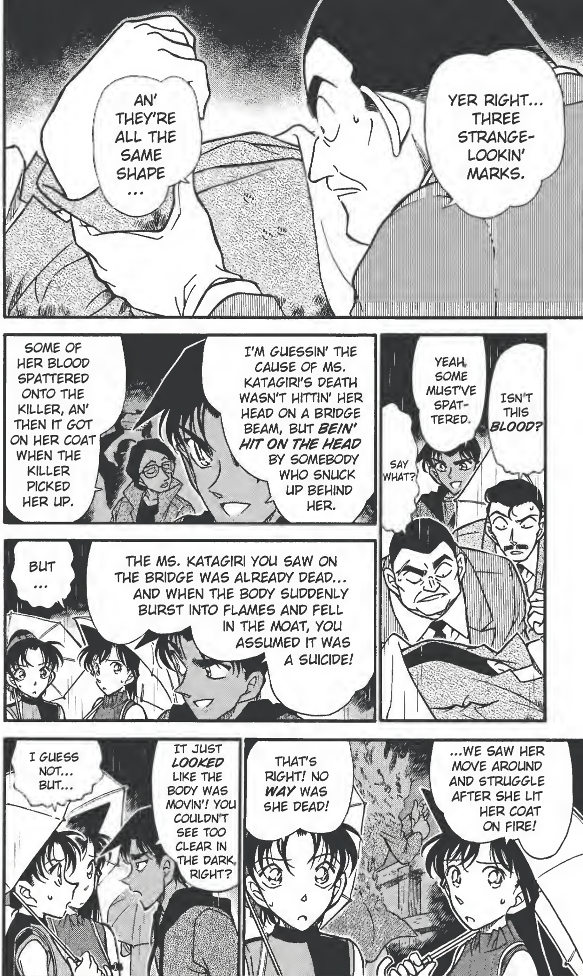

HE'S *INTERFERIN'* WITH IT.
HE'S JUST A SMARTASS WHO GOT A LITTLE TOO COCKY 'CAUSE PEOPLE KEPT CALLIN' HIM A DETECTIVE.
HE'S MESSIN' WITH THE BODY, THE EVIDENCE AN' THE POLICE INVESTIGATION JUST FOR *FUN.*
ALL HE'S DOIN' HERE IS DESTROYIN' A CRIME SCENE.
TWO PEOPLE HAVE DIED RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIS EYES, AND HE COULDN'T EVEN STOP IT FROM HAPPENIN'.
IT WASN'T SMART TO ASSUME NOTHIN' COULD HAPPEN WITH THE COPS AROUND, WAS IT?
BUT WE COPS WERE CAUGHT OFF GUARD TOO.
HMPH... ANYHOW ...
...I WANT THE AMATEUR OUTTA HERE!
GET OUTTA MY SIGHT THIS INSTANT!!
CHIEF...

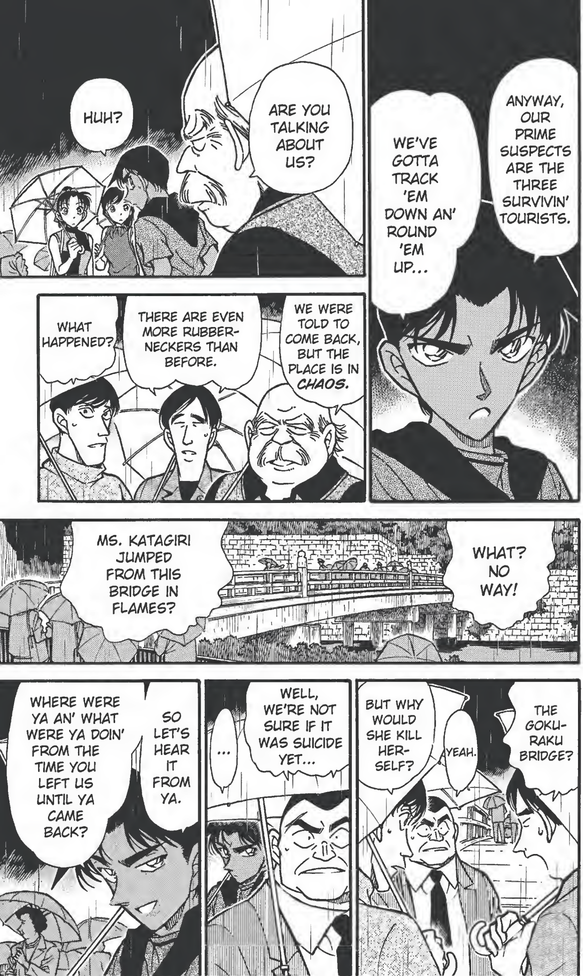

OTAKI...
...AIN'T YA BEIN' A LITTLE HARSH?
HAVE YA FORGOTTEN? REMEMBER THE GUY I TOLD YOU TO HAVE YOUR MEN TAIL...
OH! I SEE! SO THAT'S WHY CHIEF HARTWELL IS...
RIGHT. THIS IS JUST HIS WAY OF SHOWIN' FATHERLY LOVE.
OTAKI... ARE THESE TWO CASES *MURDERS?*
ER, NO.
AFTER KATO FELL OFF THE ROOF OF THE CASTLE KEEP IN FLAMES...
...WE FOUND HIS FINGERPRINTS ON THE LIGHTER RETRIEVED FROM THE ROOF.
AND FOR MS. KATAGIRI...
...KAZUHA AND RACHEL SAW HER LIGHT HERSELF ON FIRE AND FALL INTO THE MOAT.
THERE ARE STILL A COUPLE OF THINGS WE'RE NOT TOO CLEAR ABOUT, BUT I'M SURE THEY BOTH COMMITTED SUICIDE.
IN THAT CASE, A COUPLE OF DETECTIVES SHOULD BE ENOUGH.

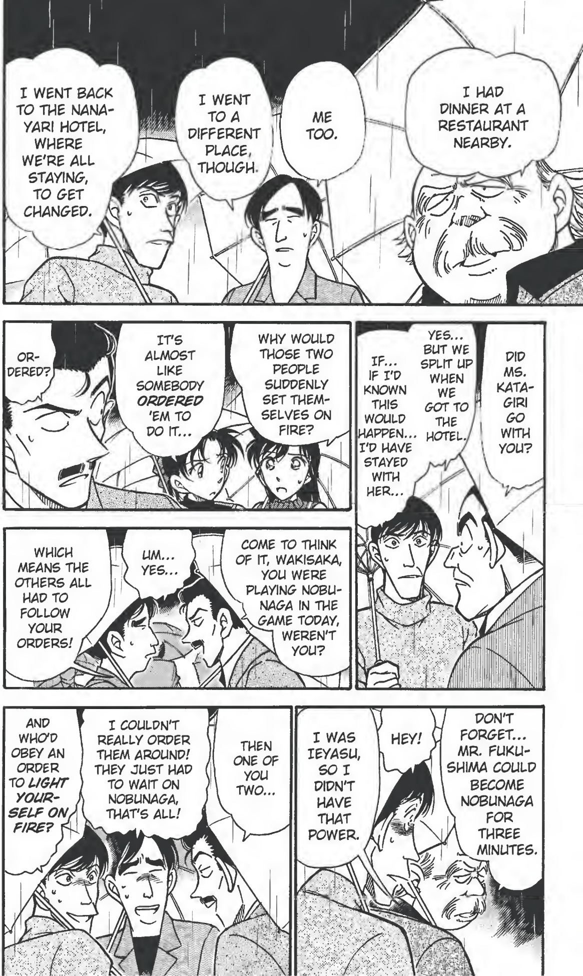

TOYAMA...
...LET'S GO.
WHAT?
THE POLICE DON'T HAVE TIME TO MESS WITH **SMALL POTATOES.**
CHIEF...
MARTIN...
WAH WAH
ARE YOU...
...STILL THINKIN' ABOUT...
WAH WAH

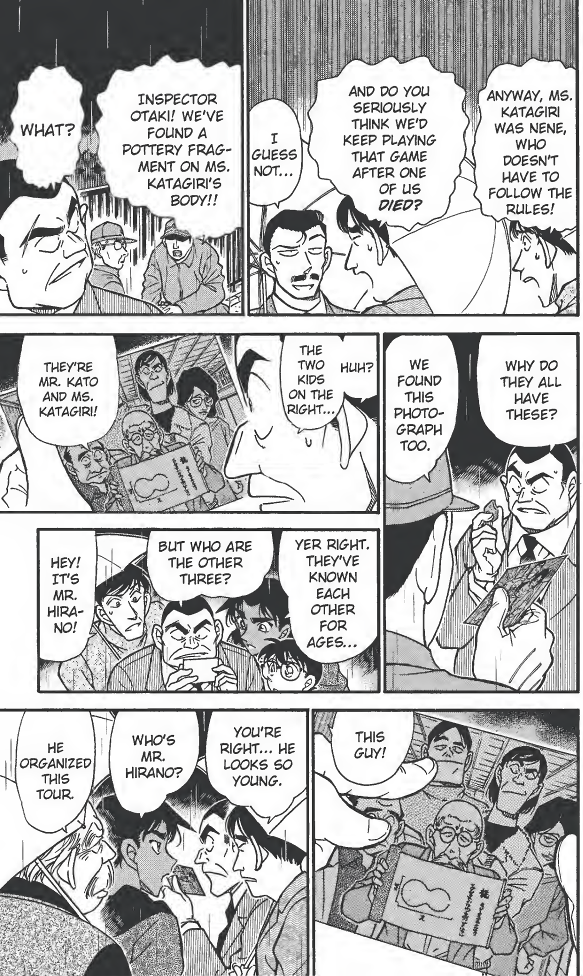

DON'T LET IT GET YA DOWN, HARLEY.
CHIEF HARTWELL'S JUST MAD THAT HE LET TWO PEOPLE DIE RIGHT IN FRONT OF POLICE HEADQUARTERS.
BUT THAT'S NO REASON TO **SOCK** THE BOY.
MAYBE HE'S AFRAID THERE'S A REALLY ***DANGEROUS*** KILLER ON THE LOOSE.
HUH?
REMEMBER HOW I OVERHEARD 'EM TALKIN' ABOUT THE POTTERY SHARDS WHILE HARLEY'S DAD DROVE US HOME?
THERE WAS MORE TO THAT CONVERSATION.
THEY SAID, "MAYBE THE CROOK BEHIND THOSE BREAK-INS 13 YEARS AGO WILL POP UP TOO."
BREAK-INS?
YEAH... A DANGEROUS CRIMINAL ON THE RUN BROKE INTO FIVE HOUSES AROUND HERE AN' KILLED SEVEN PEOPLE.
MAYBE MR. HARTWELL THINKS THAT'S THE SAME GUY KILLING PEOPLE HERE AT THE CASTLE.
I SEE... HE HARDENED HIS HEART AND DROVE HIS SON AWAY FOR HIS OWN SAFETY. JUST LIKE A KABUKI PLAY... I THINK I'M GOING TO CRY...
YEAH... IT'S BRINGIN' TEARS TO MY EYES TOO...

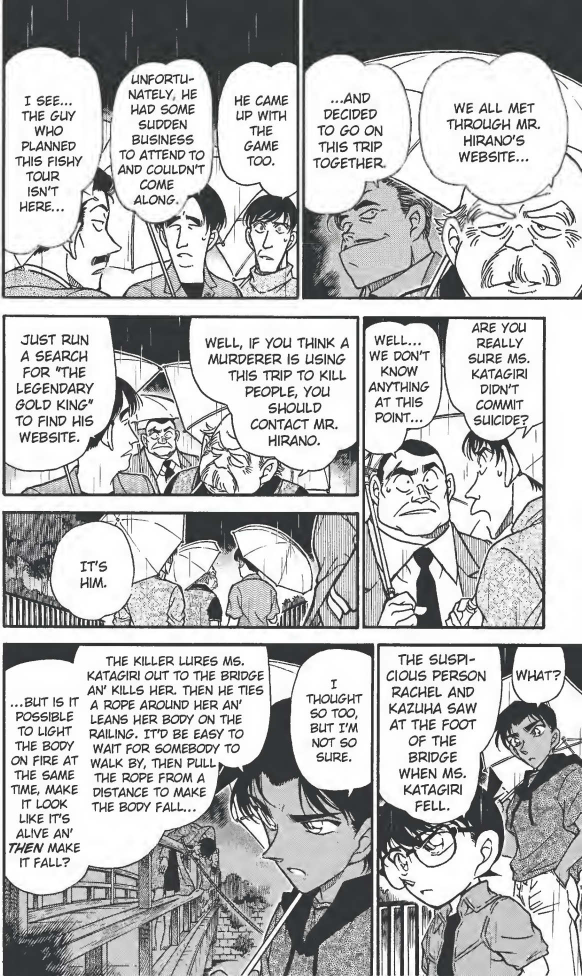

...TO THINK MY DAD'S GOTTEN SO SOFT.
HARLEY ...
I'M NOT HIS LAP DOG! IF HE PUNCHES ME, I'LL PUNCH BACK!!
I'M GONNA CATCH THAT CROOK MYSELF AN' RUB DAD'S FACE IN IT!!
MWA HA HA
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE *DUMBER* THAN A DOG...
BUT THAT'S FUNNY.
SURELY HARLEY'S DAD KNEW THIS WAS HOW HARLEY WOULD REACT...
BUT, HARLEY, WHAT CROOK ARE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT?
THIS IS OBVIOUSLY A SUICIDE.
NAH, LOOK!
CHECK OUT HER RIGHT SIDE.
THE WATER'S WASHED 'EM AWAY A BIT, BUT YOU CAN SEE 'EM.
THOSE FUNNY MARKS ...
?!

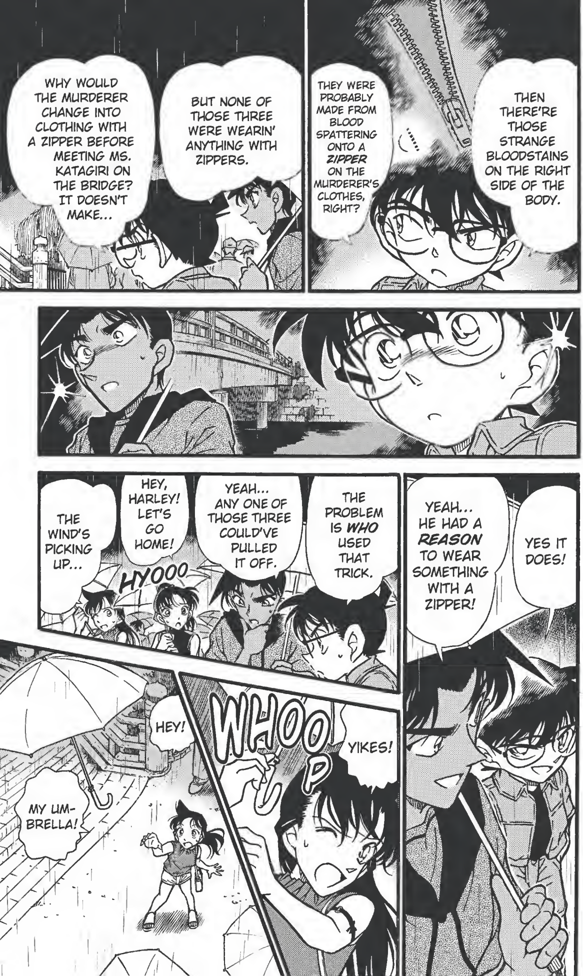

YER RIGHT... THREE STRANGE-LOOKIN' MARKS.
AN' THEY'RE ALL THE SAME SHAPE ...
ISN'T THIS *BLOOD?*
YEAH, SOME MUST'VE SPATTERED.
SAY WHAT?
I'M GUESSIN' THE CAUSE OF MS. KATAGIRI'S DEATH WASN'T HITTIN' HER HEAD ON A BRIDGE BEAM, BUT *BEIN' HIT ON THE HEAD* BY SOMEBODY WHO SNUCK UP BEHIND HER.
SOME OF HER BLOOD SPATTERED ONTO THE KILLER, AN' THEN IT GOT ON HER COAT WHEN THE KILLER PICKED HER UP.
THE MS. KATAGIRI YOU SAW ON THE BRIDGE WAS ALREADY DEAD... AND WHEN THE BODY SUDDENLY BURST INTO FLAMES AND FELL IN THE MOAT, YOU ASSUMED IT WAS A SUICIDE!
BUT ...
...WE SAW HER MOVE AROUND AND STRUGGLE AFTER SHE LIT HER COAT ON FIRE!
THAT'S RIGHT! NO *WAY* WAS SHE DEAD!
IT JUST *LOOKED* LIKE THE BODY WAS MOVIN'! YOU COULDN'T SEE TOO CLEAR IN THE DARK, RIGHT?
I GUESS NOT... BUT...

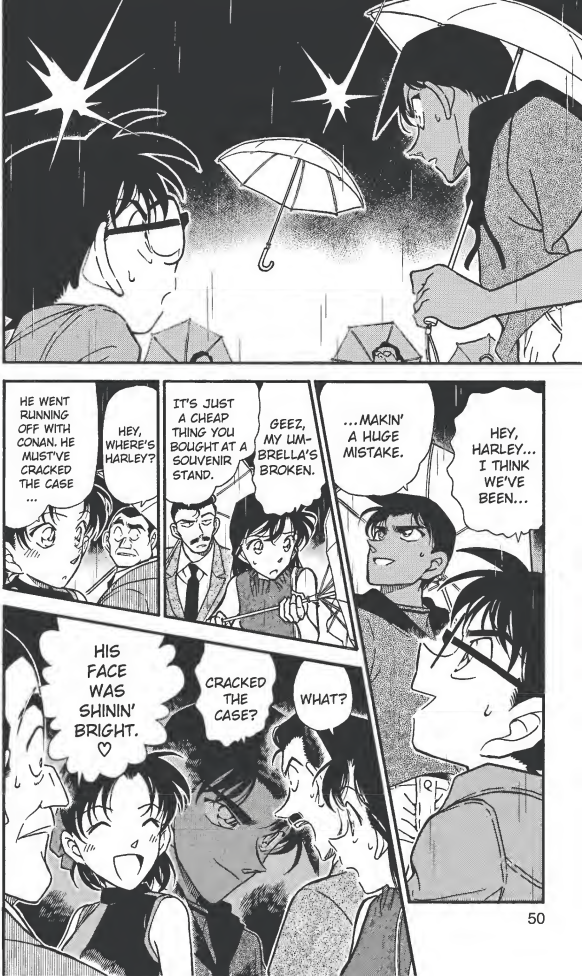

ANYWAY, OUR PRIME SUSPECTS ARE THE THREE SURVIVIN' TOURISTS.
WE'VE GOTTA TRACK 'EM DOWN AN' ROUND 'EM UP...
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT US?
HUH?
WE WERE TOLD TO COME BACK, BUT THE PLACE IS IN *CHAOS.*
THERE ARE EVEN MORE RUBBERNECKERS THAN BEFORE.
WHAT HAPPENED?
MS. KATAGIRI JUMPED FROM THIS BRIDGE IN FLAMES?
WHAT? NO WAY!
THE GOKURAKU BRIDGE?
YEAH.
BUT WHY WOULD SHE KILL HERSELF?
WELL, WE'RE NOT SURE IF IT WAS SUICIDE YET...
...
SO LET'S HEAR IT FROM YA.
WHERE WERE YA AN' WHAT WERE YA DOIN' FROM THE TIME YOU LEFT US UNTIL YA CAME BACK?

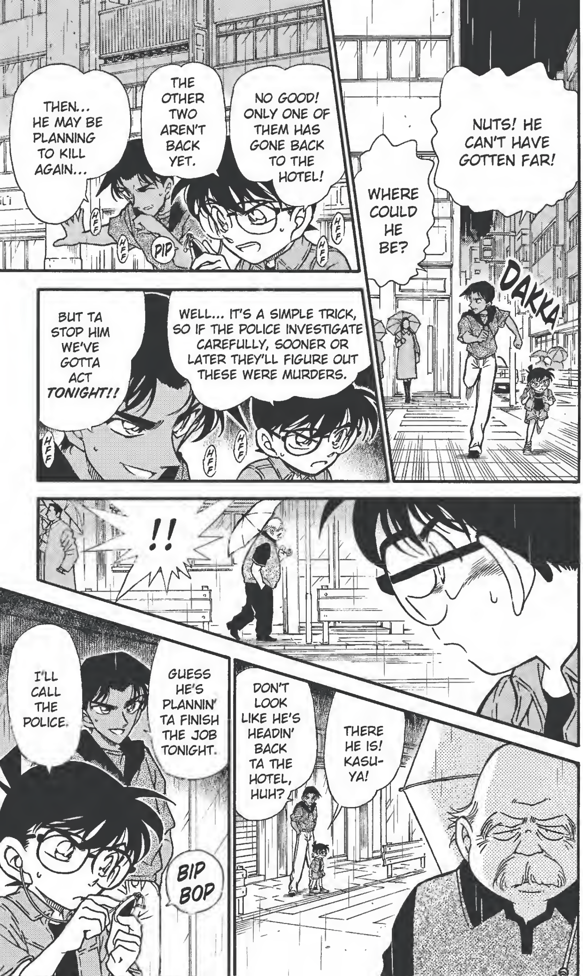

I HAD DINNER AT A RESTAURANT NEARBY.
ME TOO.
I WENT TO A DIFFERENT PLACE, THOUGH.
I WENT BACK TO THE NANAYARI HOTEL, WHERE WE'RE ALL STAYING, TO GET CHANGED.
DID MS. KATAGIRI GO WITH YOU?
YES... BUT WE SPLIT UP WHEN WE GOT TO THE HOTEL.
IF... IF I'D KNOWN THIS WOULD HAPPEN... I'D HAVE STAYED WITH HER...
WHY WOULD THOSE TWO PEOPLE SUDDENLY SET THEMSELVES ON FIRE?
IT'S ALMOST LIKE SOMEBODY *ORDERED* 'EM TO DO IT...
ORDERED?
COME TO THINK OF IT, WAKISAKA, YOU WERE PLAYING NOBUNAGA IN THE GAME TODAY, WEREN'T YOU?
UM... YES...
WHICH MEANS THE OTHERS ALL HAD TO FOLLOW YOUR ORDERS!
DON'T FORGET... MR. FUKUSHIMA COULD BECOME NOBUNAGA FOR THREE MINUTES.
HEY!
I WAS IEYASU, SO I DIDN'T HAVE THAT POWER.
THEN ONE OF YOU TWO...
I COULDN'T REALLY ORDER THEM AROUND! THEY JUST HAD TO WAIT ON NOBUNAGA, THAT'S ALL!
AND WHO'D OBEY AN ORDER TO *LIGHT YOURSELF ON FIRE*?

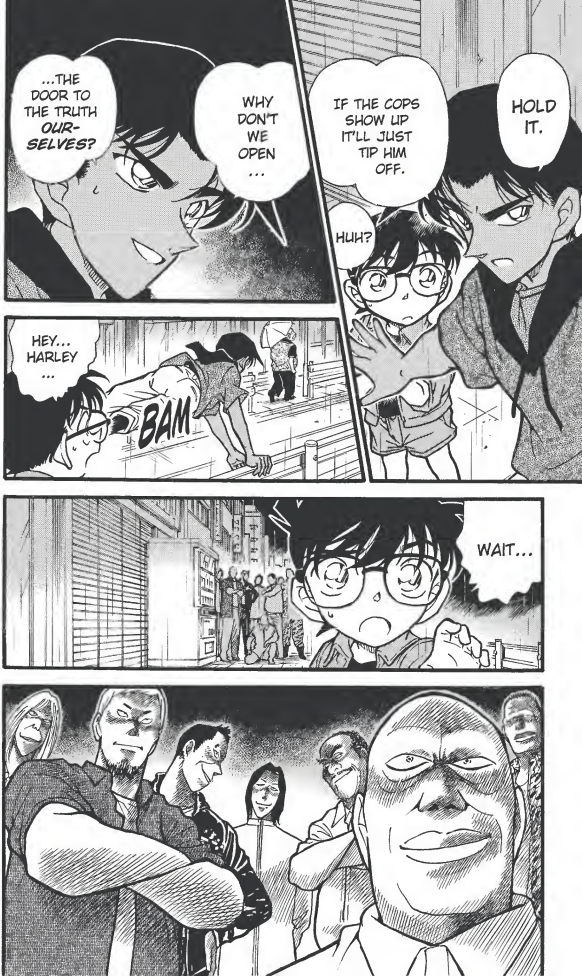

ANYWAY, MS. KATAGIRI WAS NENE, WHO DOESN'T HAVE TO FOLLOW THE RULES!
AND DO YOU SERIOUSLY THINK WE'D KEEP PLAYING THAT GAME AFTER ONE OF US *DIED?*
I GUESS NOT...
INSPECTOR OTAKI! WE'VE FOUND A POTTERY FRAGMENT ON MS. KATAGIRI'S BODY!!
WHAT?
WHY DO THEY ALL HAVE THESE?
WE FOUND THIS PHOTOGRAPH TOO.
HUH?
THE TWO KIDS ON THE RIGHT...
THEY'RE MR. KATO AND MS. KATAGIRI!
YER RIGHT. THEY'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR AGES...
BUT WHO ARE THE OTHER THREE?
HEY! IT'S MR. HIRANO!
THIS GUY!
YOU'RE RIGHT... HE LOOKS SO YOUNG.
WHO'S MR. HIRANO?
HE ORGANIZED THIS TOUR.


WE ALL MET THROUGH MR. HIRANO'S WEBSITE...
...AND DECIDED TO GO ON THIS TRIP TOGETHER.
HE CAME UP WITH THE GAME TOO.
UNFORTUNATELY, HE HAD SOME SUDDEN BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO AND COULDN'T COME ALONG.
I SEE... THE GUY WHO PLANNED THIS FISHY TOUR ISN'T HERE...
ARE YOU REALLY SURE MS. KATAGIRI DIDN'T COMMIT SUICIDE?
WELL... WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING AT THIS POINT...
WELL, IF YOU THINK A MURDERER IS USING THIS TRIP TO KILL PEOPLE, YOU SHOULD CONTACT MR. HIRANO.
JUST RUN A SEARCH FOR "THE LEGENDARY GOLD KING" TO FIND HIS WEBSITE.
IT'S HIM.
WHAT?
THE SUSPICIOUS PERSON RACHEL AND KAZUHA SAW AT THE FOOT OF THE BRIDGE WHEN MS. KATAGIRI FELL.
I THOUGHT SO TOO, BUT I'M NOT SO SURE.
THE KILLER LURES MS. KATAGIRI OUT TO THE BRIDGE AN' KILLS HER. THEN HE TIES A ROPE AROUND HER AN' LEANS HER BODY ON THE RAILING. IT'D BE EASY TO WAIT FOR SOMEBODY TO WALK BY, THEN PULL THE ROPE FROM A DISTANCE TO MAKE THE BODY FALL...
...BUT IS IT POSSIBLE TO LIGHT THE BODY ON FIRE AT THE SAME TIME, MAKE IT LOOK LIKE IT'S ALIVE AN' *THEN* MAKE IT FALL?

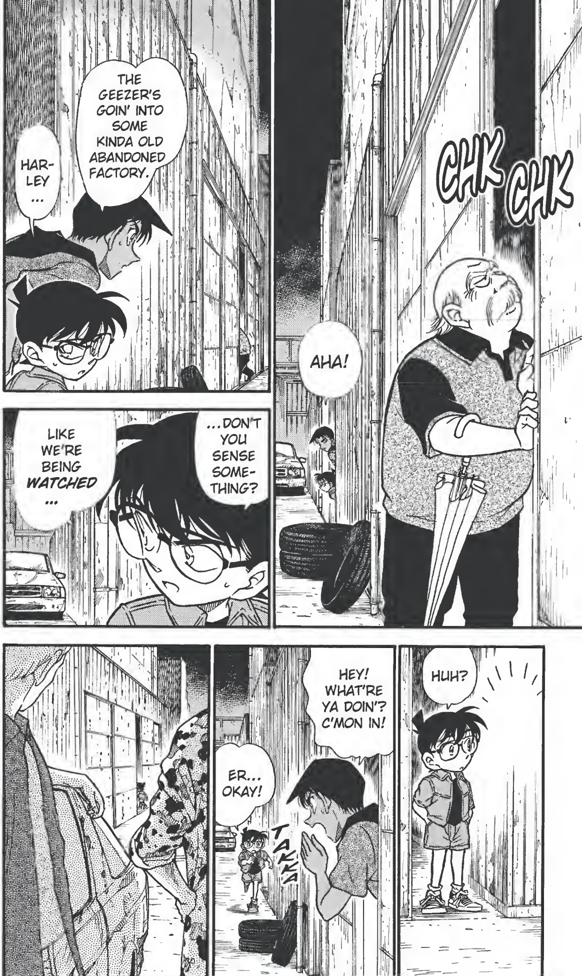

THEN THERE'RE THOSE STRANGE BLOODSTAINS ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE BODY.
THEY WERE PROBABLY MADE FROM BLOOD SPATTERING ONTO A *ZIPPER* ON THE MURDERER'S CLOTHES, RIGHT?
BUT NONE OF THOSE THREE WERE WEARIN' ANYTHING WITH ZIPPERS.
WHY WOULD THE MURDERER CHANGE INTO CLOTHING WITH A ZIPPER BEFORE MEETING MS. KATAGIRI ON THE BRIDGE? IT DOESN'T MAKE...
YES IT DOES!
YEAH... HE HAD A ***REASON*** TO WEAR SOMETHING WITH A ZIPPER!
THE PROBLEM IS ***WHO*** USED THAT TRICK.
YEAH... ANY ONE OF THOSE THREE COULD'VE PULLED IT OFF.
HEY, HARLEY! LET'S GO HOME!
THE WIND'S PICKING UP...
HYOOO
YIKES!
WHOOP
HEY!
MY UM-BRELLA!

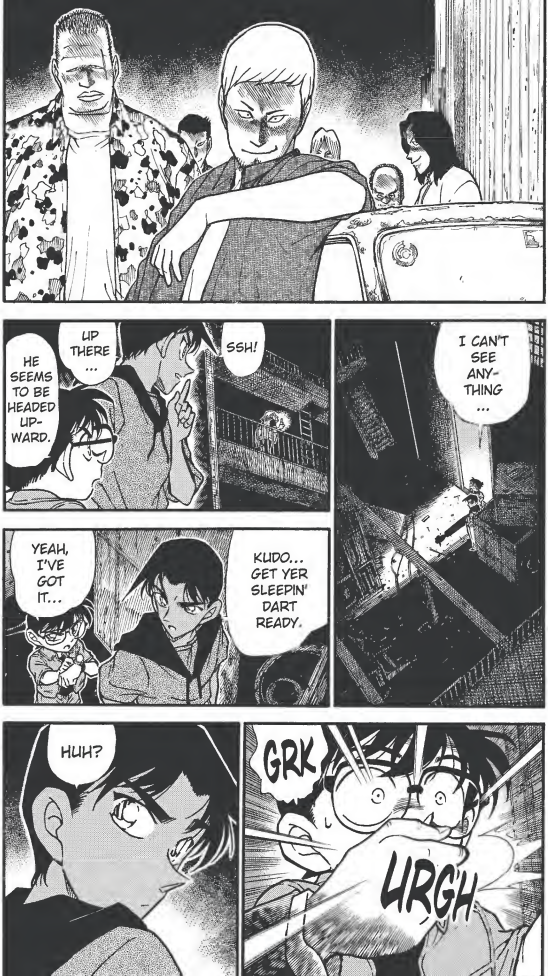

HEY, HARLEY... I THINK WE'VE BEEN...
...MAKIN' A HUGE MISTAKE.
GEEZ, MY UMBRELLA'S BROKEN.
IT'S JUST A CHEAP THING YOU BOUGHT AT A SOUVENIR STAND.
HEY, WHERE'S HARLEY?
HE WENT RUNNING OFF WITH CONAN. HE MUST'VE CRACKED THE CASE ...
WHAT?
CRACKED THE CASE?
HIS FACE WAS SHININ' BRIGHT. ♡

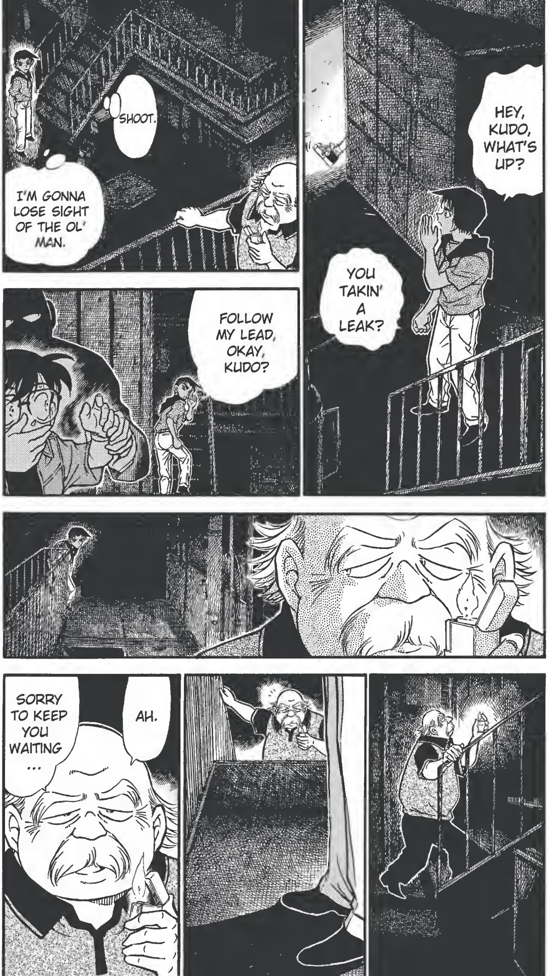

NUTS! HE CAN'T HAVE GOTTEN FAR!
WHERE COULD HE BE?
DAKKA
NO GOOD! ONLY ONE OF THEM HAS GONE BACK TO THE HOTEL!
THE OTHER TWO AREN'T BACK YET.
THEN... HE MAY BE PLANNING TO KILL AGAIN...
PIP
HFF
HFF
HFF
HFF
WELL... IT'S A SIMPLE TRICK, SO IF THE POLICE INVESTIGATE CAREFULLY, SOONER OR LATER THEY'LL FIGURE OUT THESE WERE MURDERS.
BUT TA STOP HIM WE'VE GOTTA ACT *TONIGHT!!*
HFF
HFF
!!
THERE HE IS! KASU-YA!
DON'T LOOK LIKE HE'S HEADIN' BACK TA THE HOTEL, HUH?
GUESS HE'S PLANNIN' TA FINISH THE JOB TONIGHT.
I'LL CALL THE POLICE.
BIP BOP

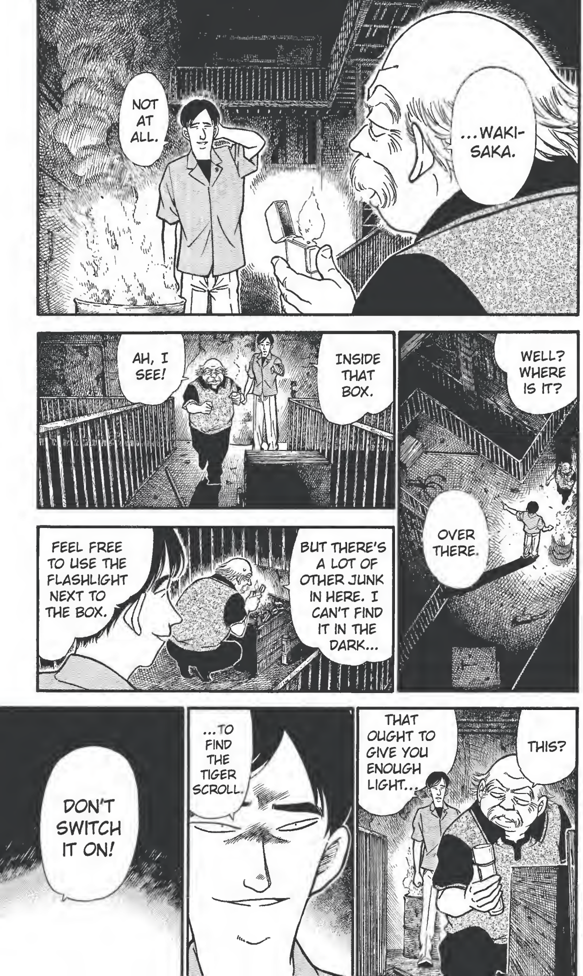

HOLD IT.
IF THE COPS SHOW UP IT'LL JUST TIP HIM OFF.
HUH?
WHY DON'T WE OPEN ...
...THE DOOR TO THE TRUTH *OUR-SELVES?*
HEY... HARLEY ...
BAM
WAIT...

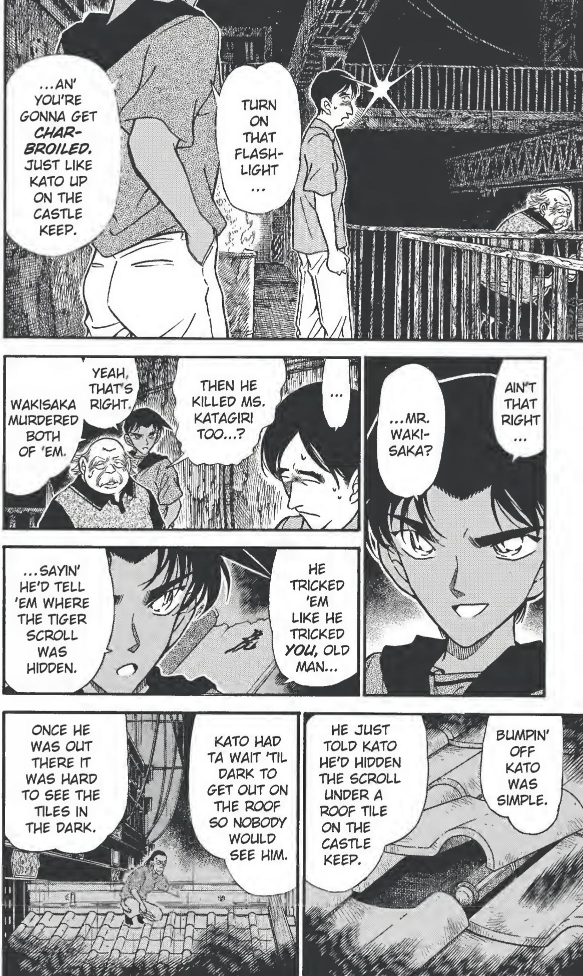
FILE 4:
THE SORROW OF THE TIGER SCROLL

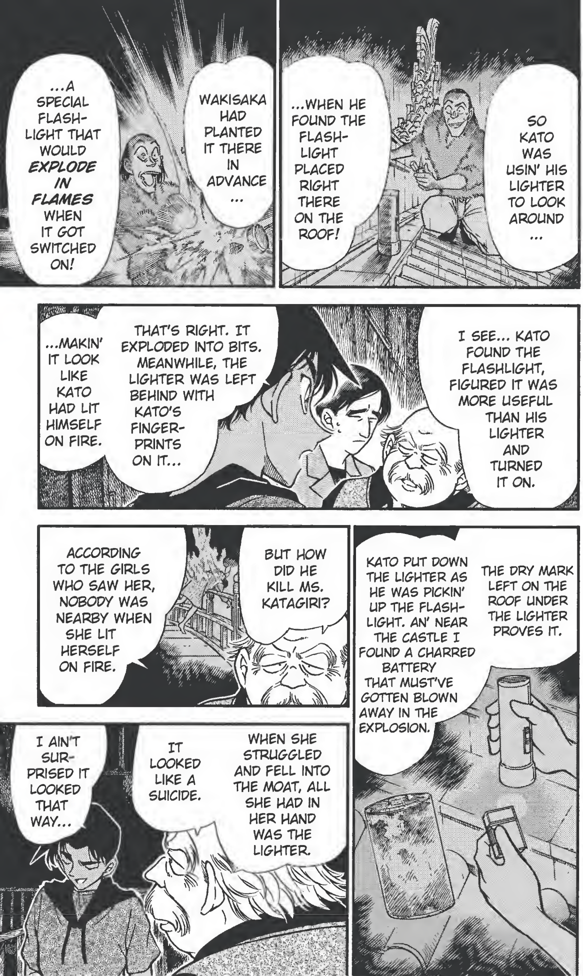

CHK CHK
AHA!
THE GEEZER'S GOIN' INTO SOME KINDA OLD ABANDONED FACTORY.
HARLEY ...
...DON'T YOU SENSE SOMETHING?
LIKE WE'RE BEING *WATCHED* ...
HUH?
HEY! WHAT'RE YA DOIN'? C'MON IN!
ER... OKAY!
TAKA

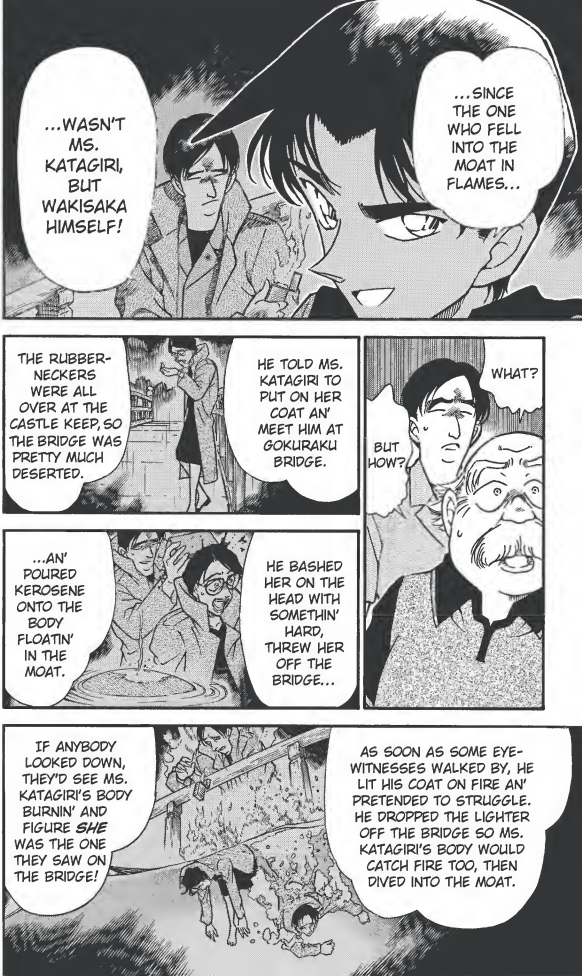

I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING...
SSH!
UP THERE...
HE SEEMS TO BE HEADED UPWARD.
KUDO... GET YER SLEEPIN' DART READY.
YEAH, I'VE GOT IT...
GRK
URGH
HUH?

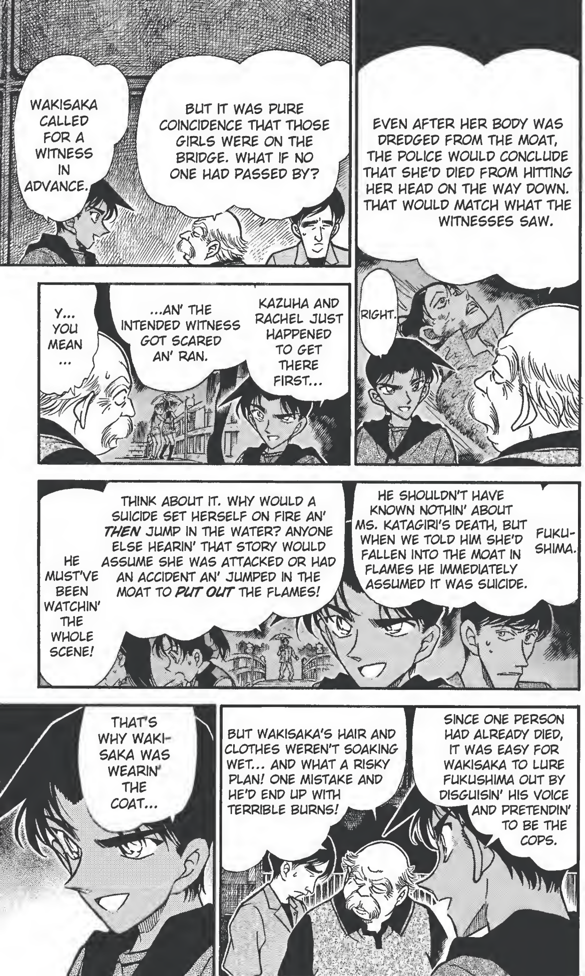

HEY, KUDO, WHAT'S UP?
YOU TAKIN' A LEAK?
SHOOT.
I'M GONNA LOSE SIGHT OF THE OL' MAN.
FOLLOW MY LEAD, OKAY, KUDO?
AH.
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING ...

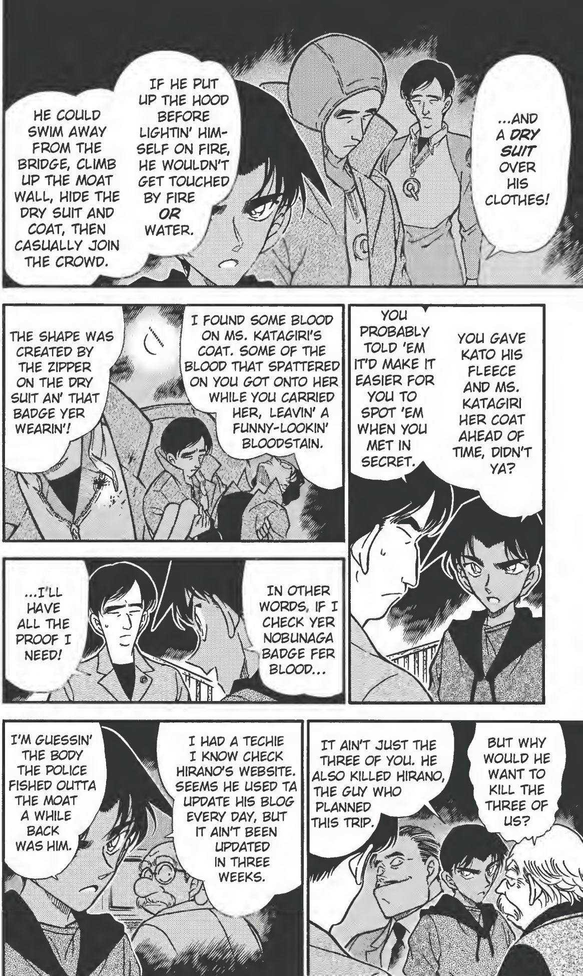

...WAKI-SAKA.
NOT AT ALL.
WELL? WHERE IS IT?
OVER THERE.
INSIDE THAT BOX.
AH, I SEE!
BUT THERE'S A LOT OF OTHER JUNK IN HERE. I CAN'T FIND IT IN THE DARK...
FEEL FREE TO USE THE FLASHLIGHT NEXT TO THE BOX.
THIS?
THAT OUGHT TO GIVE YOU ENOUGH LIGHT...
...TO FIND THE TIGER SCROLL.
DON'T SWITCH IT ON!

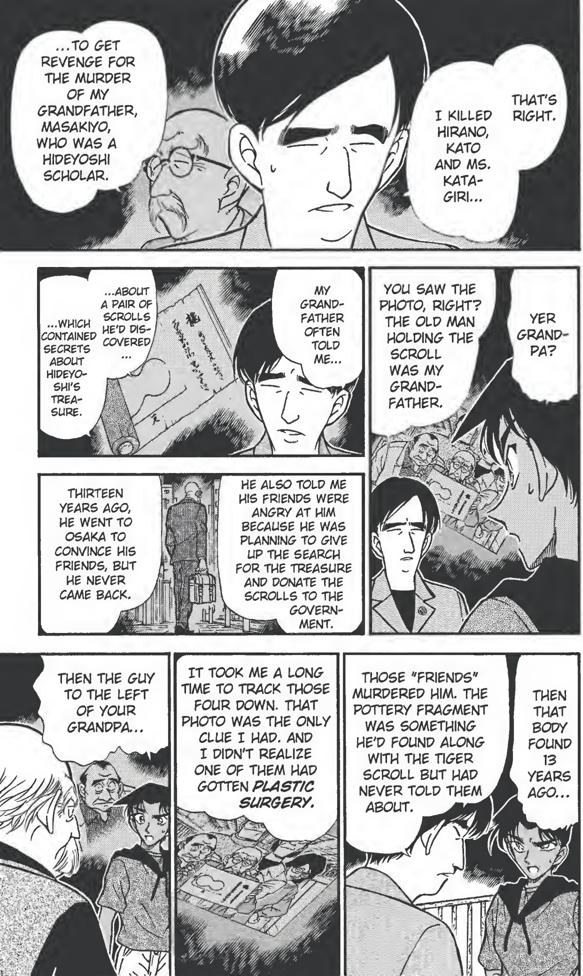

TURN ON THAT FLASHLIGHT...
...AN' YOU'RE GONNA GET ***CHARBROILED.*** JUST LIKE KATO UP ON THE CASTLE KEEP.
AIN'T THAT RIGHT...
...MR. WAKISAKA?
...
THEN HE KILLED MS. KATAGIRI TOO...?
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
WAKISAKA MURDERED BOTH OF 'EM.
HE TRICKED 'EM LIKE HE TRICKED ***YOU,*** OLD MAN...
...SAYIN' HE'D TELL 'EM WHERE THE TIGER SCROLL WAS HIDDEN.
BUMPIN' OFF KATO WAS SIMPLE.
HE JUST TOLD KATO HE'D HIDDEN THE SCROLL UNDER A ROOF TILE ON THE CASTLE KEEP.
KATO HAD TA WAIT 'TIL DARK TO GET OUT ON THE ROOF SO NOBODY WOULD SEE HIM.
ONCE HE WAS OUT THERE IT WAS HARD TO SEE THE TILES IN THE DARK.

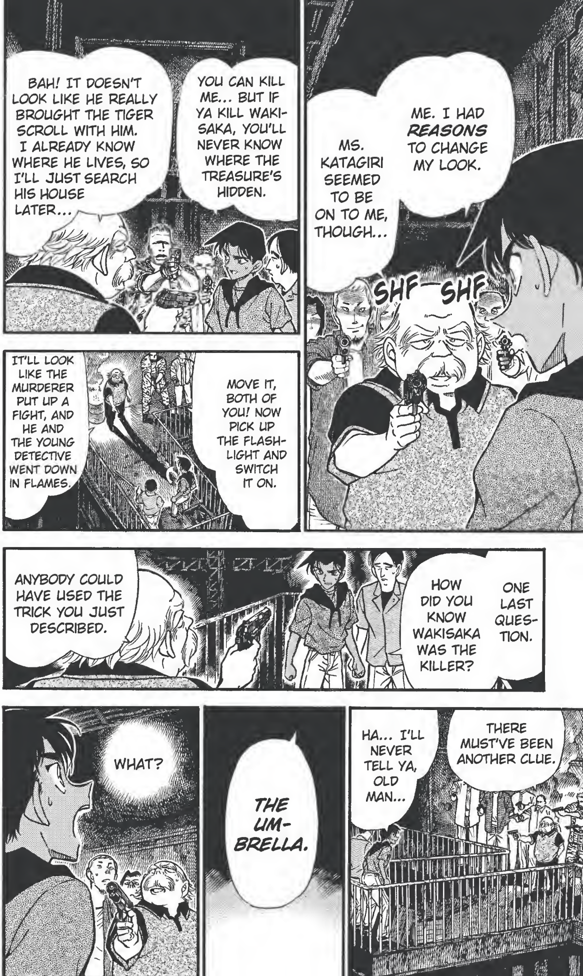

SO KATO WAS USIN' HIS LIGHTER TO LOOK AROUND ...
...WHEN HE FOUND THE FLASHLIGHT PLACED RIGHT THERE ON THE ROOF!
WAKISAKA HAD PLANTED IT THERE IN ADVANCE ...
...A SPECIAL FLASHLIGHT THAT WOULD *EXPLODE IN FLAMES* WHEN IT GOT SWITCHED ON!
I SEE... KATO FOUND THE FLASHLIGHT, FIGURED IT WAS MORE USEFUL THAN HIS LIGHTER AND TURNED IT ON.
THAT'S RIGHT. IT EXPLODED INTO BITS. MEANWHILE, THE LIGHTER WAS LEFT BEHIND WITH KATO'S FINGERPRINTS ON IT...
...MAKIN' IT LOOK LIKE KATO HAD LIT HIMSELF ON FIRE.
THE DRY MARK LEFT ON THE ROOF UNDER THE LIGHTER PROVES IT.
KATO PUT DOWN THE LIGHTER AS HE WAS PICKIN' UP THE FLASHLIGHT. AN' NEAR THE CASTLE I FOUND A CHARRED BATTERY THAT MUST'VE GOTTEN BLOWN AWAY IN THE EXPLOSION.
BUT HOW DID HE KILL MS. KATAGIRI?
ACCORDING TO THE GIRLS WHO SAW HER, NOBODY WAS NEARBY WHEN SHE LIT HERSELF ON FIRE.
WHEN SHE STRUGGLED AND FELL INTO THE MOAT, ALL SHE HAD IN HER HAND WAS THE LIGHTER.
IT LOOKED LIKE A SUICIDE.
I AIN'T SURPRISED IT LOOKED THAT WAY...

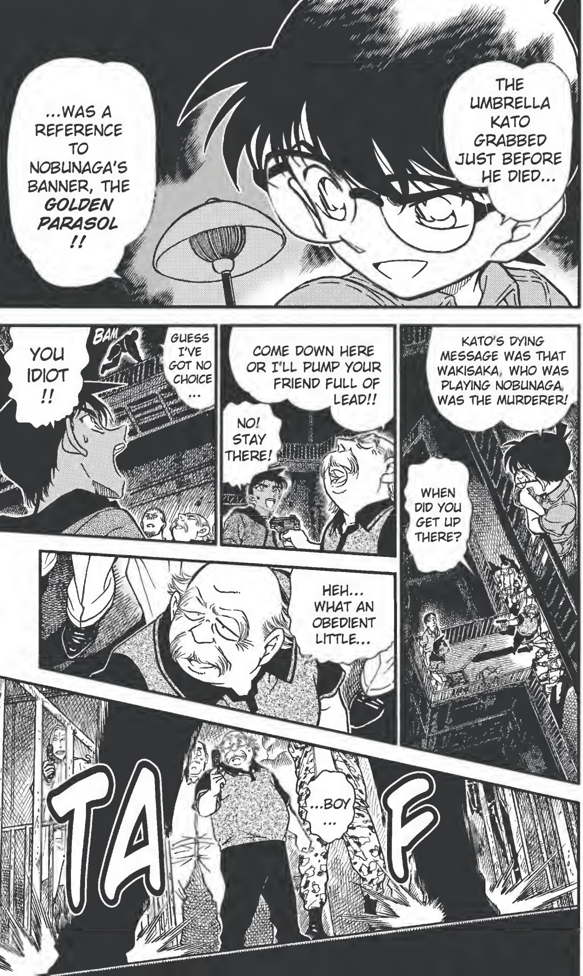

...SINCE THE ONE WHO FELL INTO THE MOAT IN FLAMES...
...WASN'T MS. KATAGIRI, BUT WAKISAKA HIMSELF!
WHAT?
BUT HOW?
HE TOLD MS. KATAGIRI TO PUT ON HER COAT AN' MEET HIM AT GOKURAKU BRIDGE.
THE RUBBERNECKERS WERE ALL OVER AT THE CASTLE KEEP, SO THE BRIDGE WAS PRETTY MUCH DESERTED.
HE BASHED HER ON THE HEAD WITH SOMETHIN' HARD, THREW HER OFF THE BRIDGE...
...AN' POURED KEROSENE ONTO THE BODY FLOATIN' IN THE MOAT.
AS SOON AS SOME EYE-WITNESSES WALKED BY, HE LIT HIS COAT ON FIRE AN' PRETENDED TO STRUGGLE. HE DROPPED THE LIGHTER OFF THE BRIDGE SO MS. KATAGIRI'S BODY WOULD CATCH FIRE TOO, THEN DIVED INTO THE MOAT.
IF ANYBODY LOOKED DOWN, THEY'D SEE MS. KATAGIRI'S BODY BURNIN' AND FIGURE *SHE* WAS THE ONE THEY SAW ON THE BRIDGE!

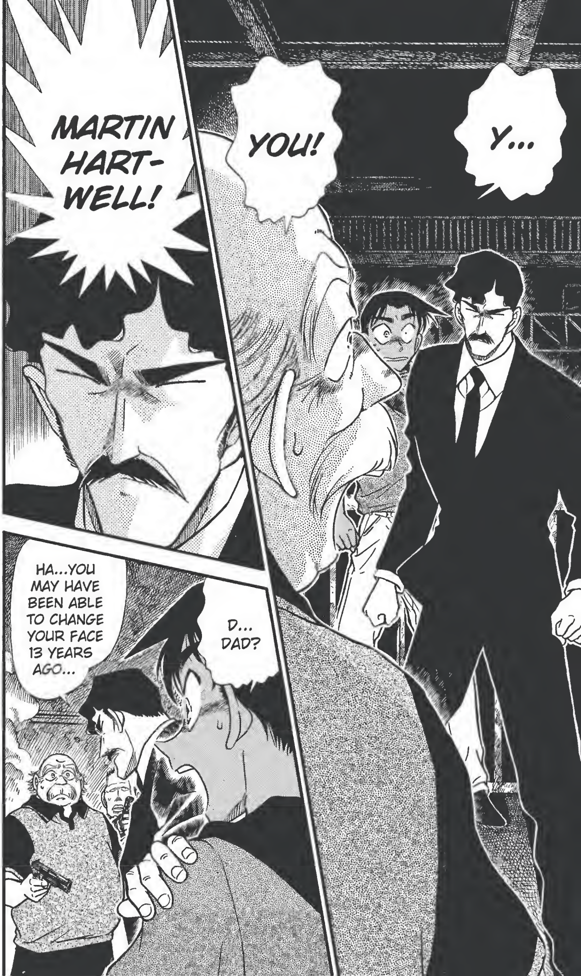

EVEN AFTER HER BODY WAS DREDGED FROM THE MOAT, THE POLICE WOULD CONCLUDE THAT SHE'D DIED FROM HITTING HER HEAD ON THE WAY DOWN. THAT WOULD MATCH WHAT THE WITNESSES SAW.
BUT IT WAS PURE COINCIDENCE THAT THOSE GIRLS WERE ON THE BRIDGE. WHAT IF NO ONE HAD PASSED BY?
WAKISAKA CALLED FOR A WITNESS IN ADVANCE.
RIGHT.
KAZUHA AND RACHEL JUST HAPPENED TO GET THERE FIRST...
...AN' THE INTENDED WITNESS GOT SCARED AN' RAN.
Y... YOU MEAN...
FUKUSHIMA.
HE SHOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN NOTHIN' ABOUT MS. KATAGIRI'S DEATH, BUT WHEN WE TOLD HIM SHE'D FALLEN INTO THE MOAT IN FLAMES HE IMMEDIATELY ASSUMED IT WAS SUICIDE.
THINK ABOUT IT. WHY WOULD A SUICIDE SET HERSELF ON FIRE AN' *THEN* JUMP IN THE WATER? ANYONE ELSE HEARIN' THAT STORY WOULD ASSUME SHE WAS ATTACKED OR HAD AN ACCIDENT AN' JUMPED IN THE MOAT TO *PUT OUT* THE FLAMES!
HE MUST'VE BEEN WATCHIN' THE WHOLE SCENE!
SINCE ONE PERSON HAD ALREADY DIED, IT WAS EASY FOR WAKISAKA TO LURE FUKUSHIMA OUT BY DISGUISIN' HIS VOICE AND PRETENDIN' TO BE THE COPS.
BUT WAKISAKA'S HAIR AND CLOTHES WEREN'T SOAKING WET... AND WHAT A RISKY PLAN! ONE MISTAKE AND HE'D END UP WITH TERRIBLE BURNS!
THAT'S WHY WAKISAKA WAS WEARIN' THE COAT...

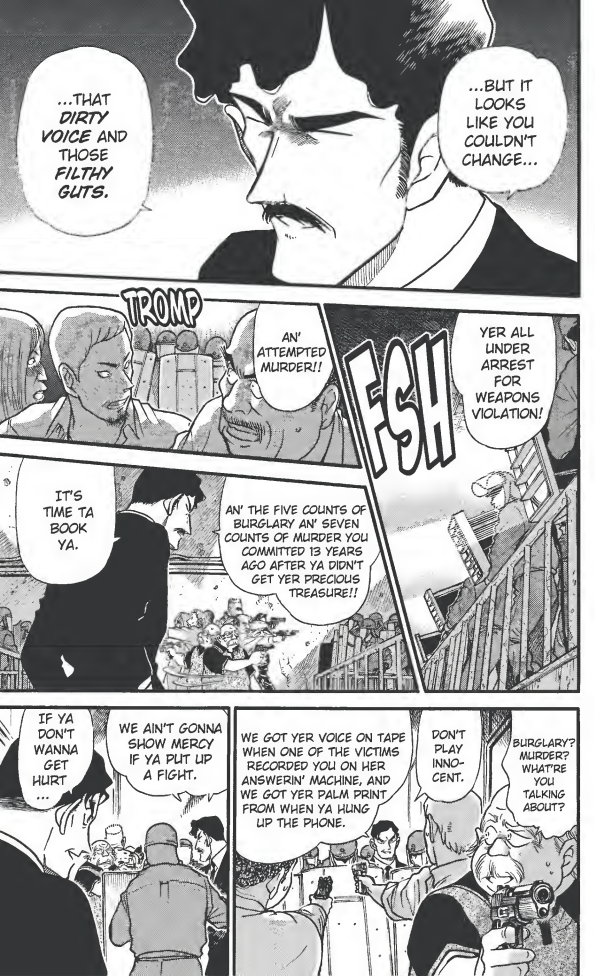

...AND A *DRY SUIT* OVER HIS CLOTHES!
IF HE PUT UP THE HOOD BEFORE LIGHTIN' HIMSELF ON FIRE, HE WOULDN'T GET TOUCHED BY FIRE *OR* WATER.
HE COULD SWIM AWAY FROM THE BRIDGE, CLIMB UP THE MOAT WALL, HIDE THE DRY SUIT AND COAT, THEN CASUALLY JOIN THE CROWD.
YOU GAVE KATO HIS FLEECE AND MS. KATAGIRI HER COAT AHEAD OF TIME, DIDN'T YA?
YOU PROBABLY TOLD 'EM IT'D MAKE IT EASIER FOR YOU TO SPOT 'EM WHEN YOU MET IN SECRET.
I FOUND SOME BLOOD ON MS. KATAGIRI'S COAT. SOME OF THE BLOOD THAT SPATTERED ON YOU GOT ONTO HER WHILE YOU CARRIED HER, LEAVIN' A FUNNY-LOOKIN' BLOODSTAIN.
THE SHAPE WAS CREATED BY THE ZIPPER ON THE DRY SUIT AN' THAT BADGE YER WEARIN'!
IN OTHER WORDS, IF I CHECK YER NOBUNAGA BADGE FER BLOOD...
...I'LL HAVE ALL THE PROOF I NEED!
BUT WHY WOULD HE WANT TO KILL THE THREE OF US?
IT AIN'T JUST THE THREE OF YOU. HE ALSO KILLED HIRANO, THE GUY WHO PLANNED THIS TRIP.
I HAD A TECHIE I KNOW CHECK HIRANO'S WEBSITE. SEEMS HE USED TA UPDATE HIS BLOG EVERY DAY, BUT IT AIN'T BEEN UPDATED IN THREE WEEKS.
I'M GUESSIN' THE BODY THE POLICE FISHED OUTTA THE MOAT A WHILE BACK WAS HIM.

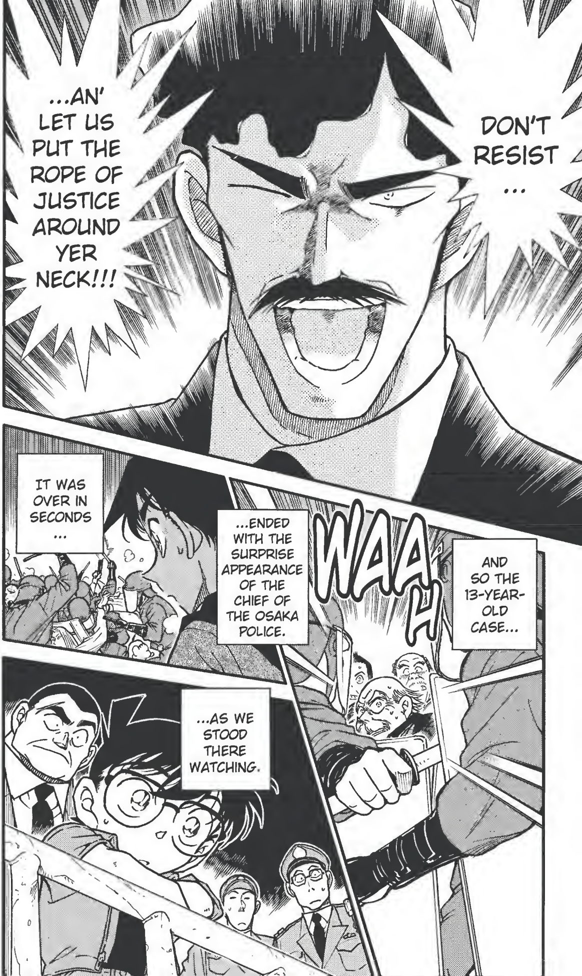

THAT'S RIGHT.
I KILLED HIRANO, KATO AND MS. KATAGIRI...
...TO GET REVENGE FOR THE MURDER OF MY GRANDFATHER, MASAKIYO, WHO WAS A HIDEYOSHI SCHOLAR.
YER GRANDPA?
YOU SAW THE PHOTO, RIGHT? THE OLD MAN HOLDING THE SCROLL WAS MY GRANDFATHER.
MY GRANDFATHER OFTEN TOLD ME...
...ABOUT A PAIR OF SCROLLS HE'D DISCOVERED...
...WHICH CONTAINED SECRETS ABOUT HIDEYOSHI'S TREASURE.
HE ALSO TOLD ME HIS FRIENDS WERE ANGRY AT HIM BECAUSE HE WAS PLANNING TO GIVE UP THE SEARCH FOR THE TREASURE AND DONATE THE SCROLLS TO THE GOVERNMENT.
THIRTEEN YEARS AGO, HE WENT TO OSAKA TO CONVINCE HIS FRIENDS, BUT HE NEVER CAME BACK.
THEN THAT BODY FOUND 13 YEARS AGO...
THOSE "FRIENDS" MURDERED HIM. THE POTTERY FRAGMENT WAS SOMETHING HE'D FOUND ALONG WITH THE TIGER SCROLL BUT HAD NEVER TOLD THEM ABOUT.
IT TOOK ME A LONG TIME TO TRACK THOSE FOUR DOWN. THAT PHOTO WAS THE ONLY CLUE I HAD. AND I DIDN'T REALIZE ONE OF THEM HAD GOTTEN *PLASTIC SURGERY.*
THEN THE GUY TO THE LEFT OF YOUR GRANDPA...

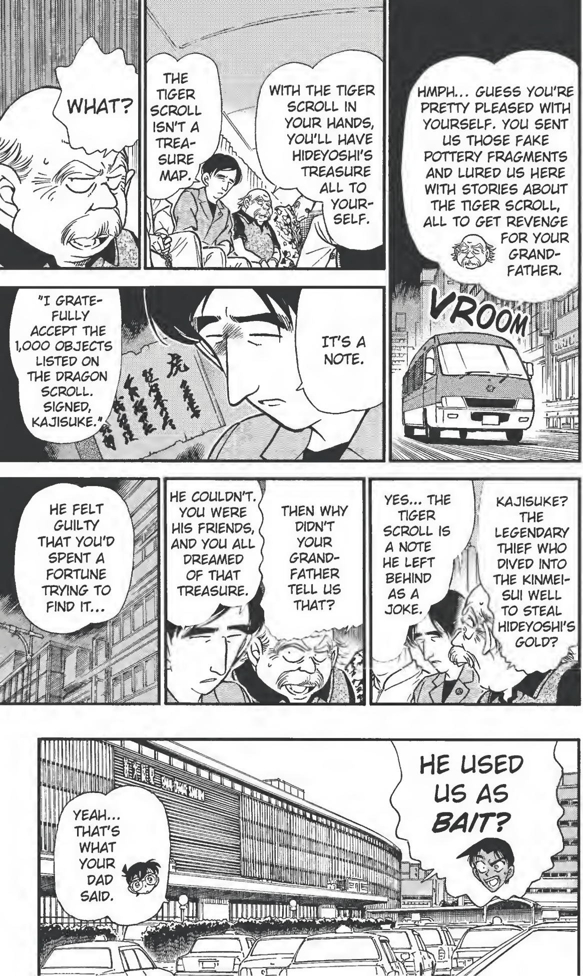

ME. I HAD *REASONS* TO CHANGE MY LOOK.
MS. KATAGIRI SEEMED TO BE ON TO ME, THOUGH...
SHF SHF
YOU CAN KILL ME... BUT IF YA KILL WAKISAKA, YOU'LL NEVER KNOW WHERE THE TREASURE'S HIDDEN.
BAH! IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE REALLY BROUGHT THE TIGER SCROLL WITH HIM. I ALREADY KNOW WHERE HE LIVES, SO I'LL JUST SEARCH HIS HOUSE LATER...
MOVE IT, BOTH OF YOU! NOW PICK UP THE FLASHLIGHT AND SWITCH IT ON.
IT'LL LOOK LIKE THE MURDERER PUT UP A FIGHT, AND HE AND THE YOUNG DETECTIVE WENT DOWN IN FLAMES.
ONE LAST QUESTION.
HOW DID YOU KNOW WAKISAKA WAS THE KILLER?
ANYBODY COULD HAVE USED THE TRICK YOU JUST DESCRIBED.
THERE MUST'VE BEEN ANOTHER CLUE.
HA... I'LL NEVER TELL YA, OLD MAN...
THE UMBRELLA.
WHAT?

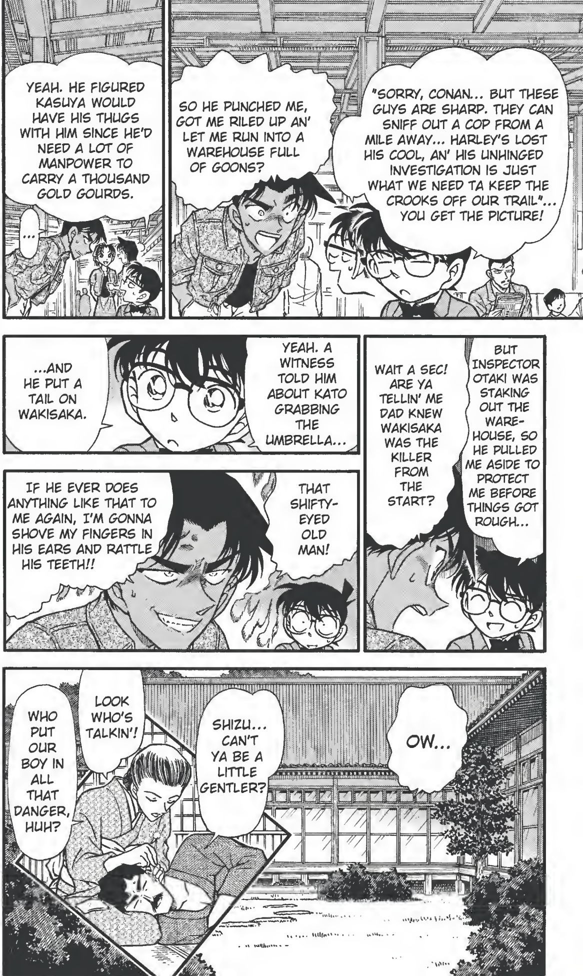

THE UMBRELLA KATO GRABBED JUST BEFORE HE DIED...
...WAS A REFERENCE TO NOBUNAGA'S BANNER, THE *GOLDEN PARASOL*!!
KATO'S DYING MESSAGE WAS THAT WAKISAKA, WHO WAS PLAYING NOBUNAGA, WAS THE MURDERER!
WHEN DID YOU GET UP THERE?
COME DOWN HERE OR I'LL PUMP YOUR FRIEND FULL OF LEAD!!
NO! STAY THERE!
GUESS I'VE GOT NO CHOICE...
BAM
YOU IDIOT!!
HEH... WHAT AN OBEDIENT LITTLE...
...BOY...
TA F


Y...
YOU!
MARTIN HARTWELL!
D... DAD?
HA...YOU MAY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CHANGE YOUR FACE 13 YEARS AGO...

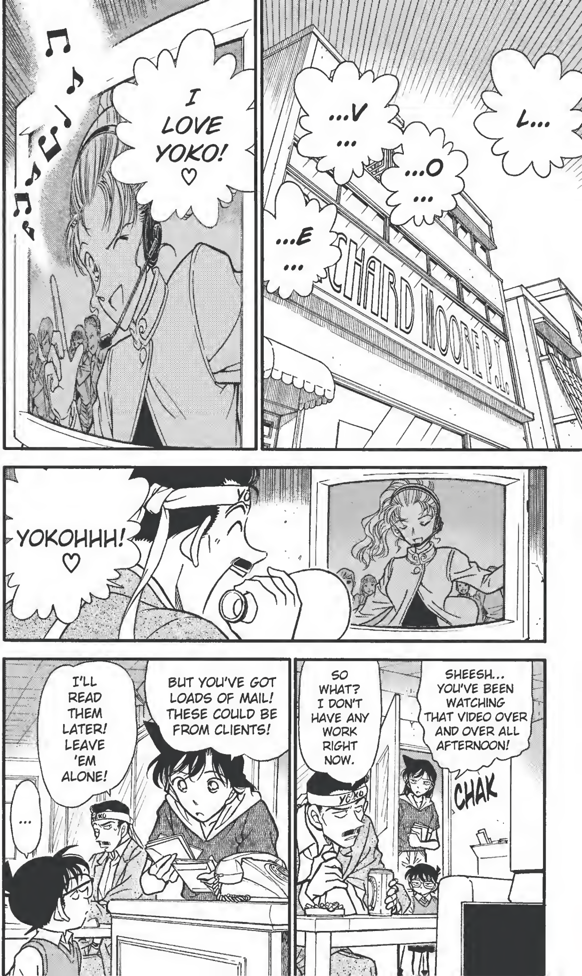

...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU COULDN'T CHANGE...
...THAT *DIRTY VOICE* AND THOSE *FILTHY GUTS.*
YER ALL UNDER ARREST FOR WEAPONS VIOLATION!
FSH
TROMP
AN' ATTEMPTED MURDER!!
AN' THE FIVE COUNTS OF BURGLARY AN' SEVEN COUNTS OF MURDER YOU COMMITTED 13 YEARS AGO AFTER YA DIDN'T GET YER PRECIOUS TREASURE!!
IT'S TIME TA BOOK YA.
BURGLARY? MURDER? WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
DON'T PLAY INNOCENT.
WE GOT YER VOICE ON TAPE WHEN ONE OF THE VICTIMS RECORDED YOU ON HER ANSWERIN' MACHINE, AND WE GOT YER PALM PRINT FROM WHEN YA HUNG UP THE PHONE.
WE AIN'T GONNA SHOW MERCY IF YA PUT UP A FIGHT.
IF YA DON'T WANNA GET HURT...

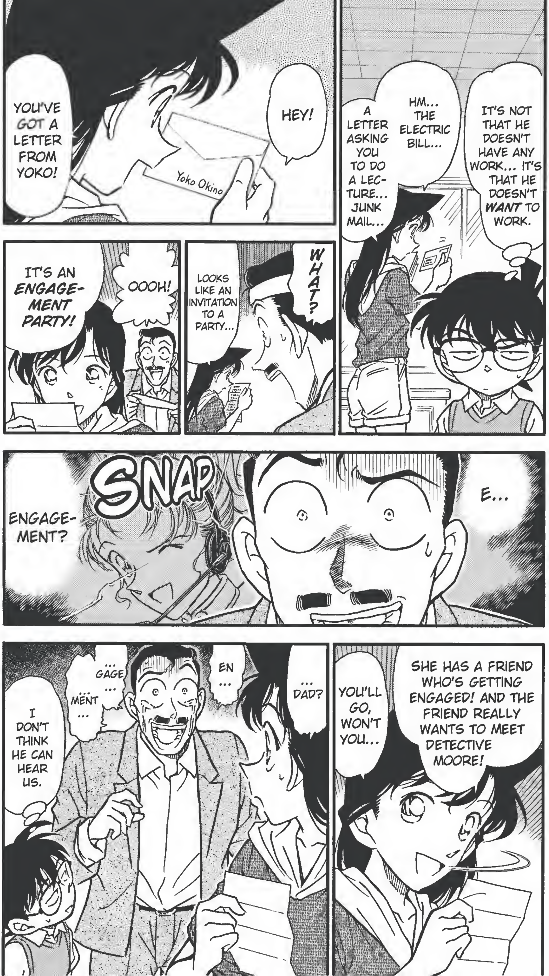

DON'T RESIST…
…AN' LET US PUT THE ROPE OF JUSTICE AROUND YER NECK!!!
AND SO THE 13-YEAR-OLD CASE…
WAAAH
…ENDED WITH THE SURPRISE APPEARANCE OF THE CHIEF OF THE OSAKA POLICE.
IT WAS OVER IN SECONDS…
…AS WE STOOD THERE WATCHING.

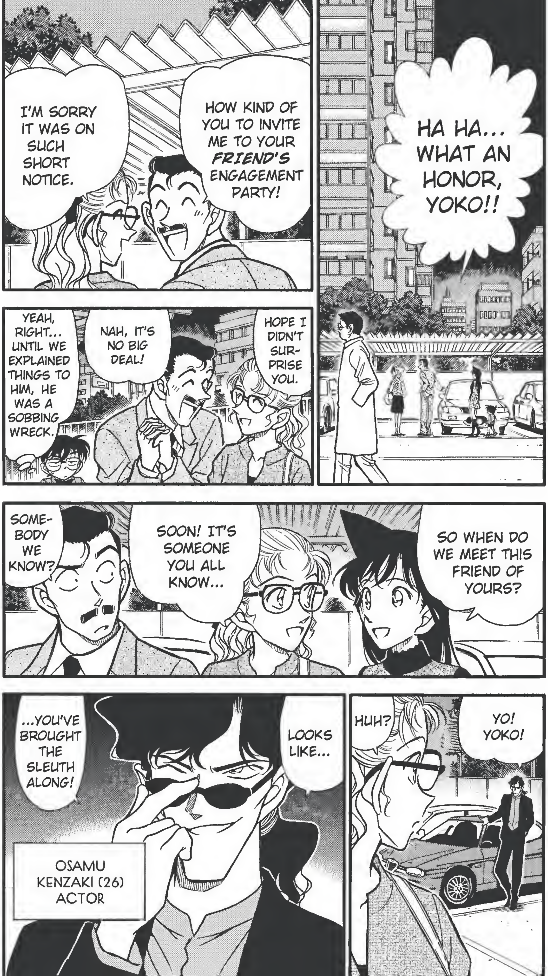

HMPH... GUESS YOU'RE PRETTY PLEASED WITH YOURSELF. YOU SENT US THOSE FAKE POTTERY FRAGMENTS AND LURED US HERE WITH STORIES ABOUT THE TIGER SCROLL, ALL TO GET REVENGE FOR YOUR GRANDFATHER.
VROOM
WITH THE TIGER SCROLL IN YOUR HANDS, YOU'LL HAVE HIDEYOSHI'S TREASURE ALL TO YOURSELF.
THE TIGER SCROLL ISN'T A TREASURE MAP.
WHAT?
IT'S A NOTE.
"I GRATEFULLY ACCEPT THE 1,000 OBJECTS LISTED ON THE DRAGON SCROLL. SIGNED, KAJISUKE."
KAJISUKE? THE LEGENDARY THIEF WHO DIVED INTO THE KINMEISUI WELL TO STEAL HIDEYOSHI'S GOLD?
YES... THE TIGER SCROLL IS A NOTE HE LEFT BEHIND AS A JOKE.
THEN WHY DIDN'T YOUR GRANDFATHER TELL US THAT?
HE COULDN'T. YOU WERE HIS FRIENDS, AND YOU ALL DREAMED OF THAT TREASURE.
HE FELT GUILTY THAT YOU'D SPENT A FORTUNE TRYING TO FIND IT...
HE USED US AS *BAIT?*
YEAH... THAT'S WHAT YOUR DAD SAID.

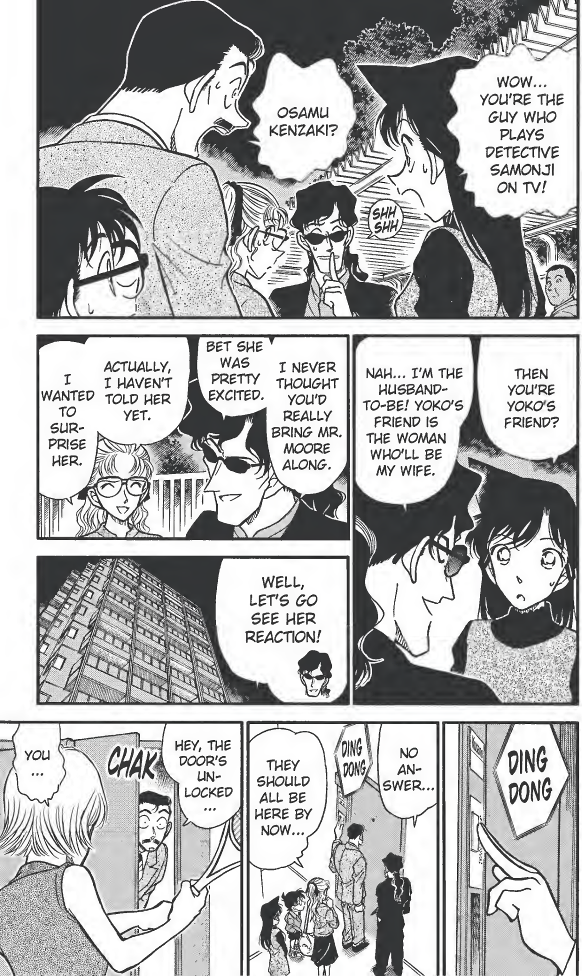

"SORRY, CONAN... BUT THESE GUYS ARE SHARP. THEY CAN SNIFF OUT A COP FROM A MILE AWAY... HARLEY'S LOST HIS COOL, AN' HIS UNHINGED INVESTIGATION IS JUST WHAT WE NEED TA KEEP THE CROOKS OFF OUR TRAIL"... YOU GET THE PICTURE!
SO HE PUNCHED ME, GOT ME RILED UP AN' LET ME RUN INTO A WAREHOUSE FULL OF GOONS?
YEAH. HE FIGURED KASUYA WOULD HAVE HIS THUGS WITH HIM SINCE HE'D NEED A LOT OF MANPOWER TO CARRY A THOUSAND GOLD GOURDS.
...
BUT INSPECTOR OTAKI WAS STAKING OUT THE WAREHOUSE, SO HE PULLED ME ASIDE TO PROTECT ME BEFORE THINGS GOT ROUGH...
WAIT A SEC! ARE YA TELLIN' ME DAD KNEW WAKISAKA WAS THE KILLER FROM THE START?
YEAH. A WITNESS TOLD HIM ABOUT KATO GRABBING THE UMBRELLA...
...AND HE PUT A TAIL ON WAKISAKA.
THAT SHIFTY-EYED OLD MAN!
IF HE EVER DOES ANYTHING LIKE THAT TO ME AGAIN, I'M GONNA SHOVE MY FINGERS IN HIS EARS AND RATTLE HIS TEETH!!
OW...
SHIZU... CAN'T YA BE A LITTLE GENTLER?
LOOK WHO'S TALKIN'!
WHO PUT OUR BOY IN ALL THAT DANGER, HUH?

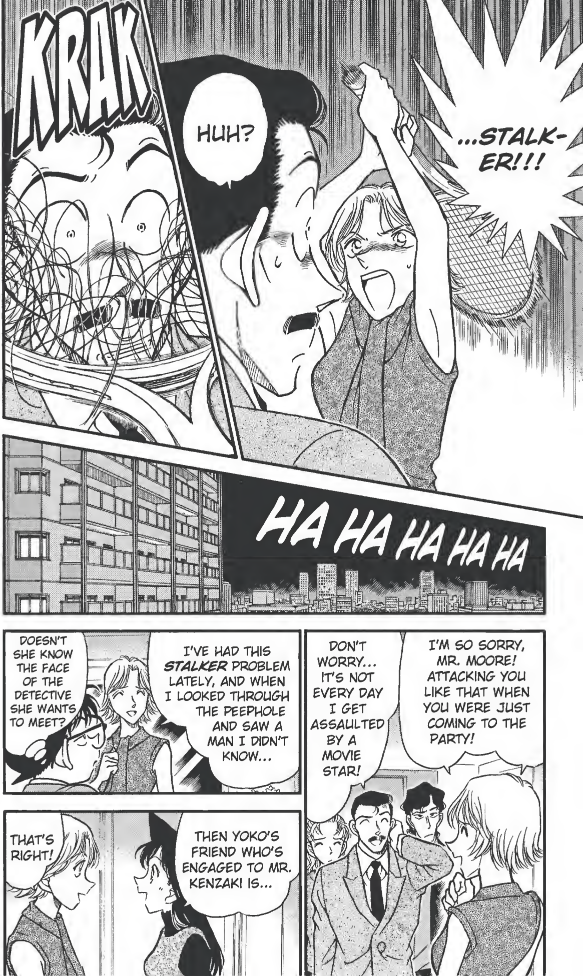
FILE 5:
REUNION

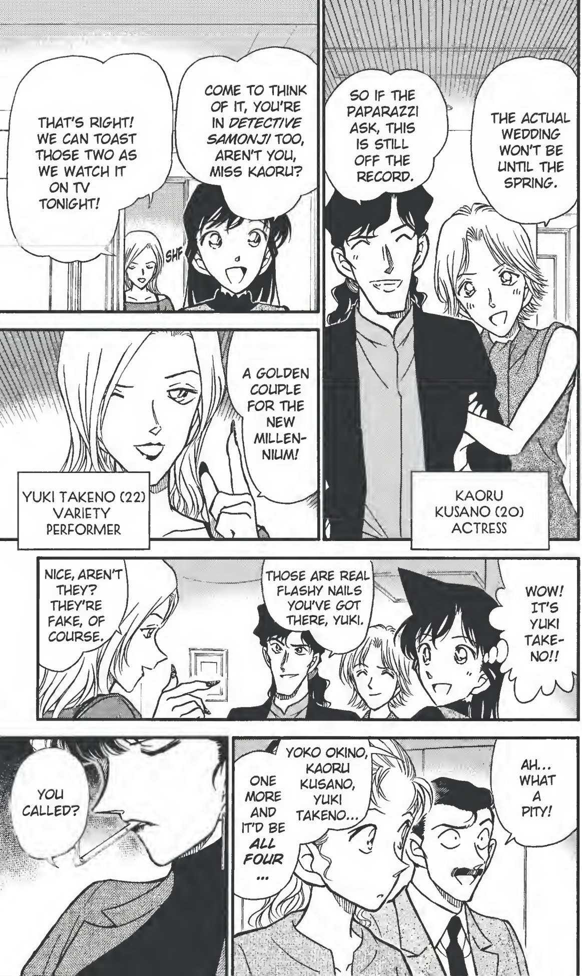

L...
...O ...
...V ...
...E ...
CHARD MOORE P.I.
I LOVE YOKO! ♡
YOKOHHH! ♡
SHEESH... YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING THAT VIDEO OVER AND OVER ALL AFTERNOON!
CHAK
SO WHAT? I DON'T HAVE ANY WORK RIGHT NOW.
BUT YOU'VE GOT LOADS OF MAIL! THESE COULD BE FROM CLIENTS!
I'LL READ THEM LATER! LEAVE 'EM ALONE!
...

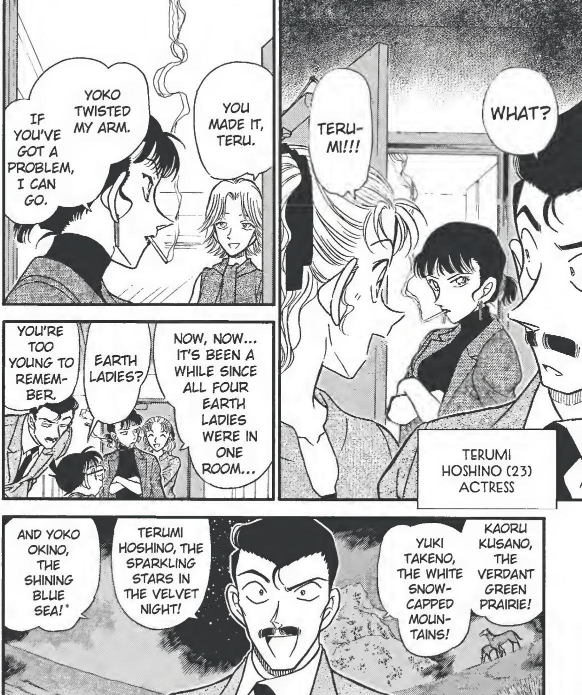

HM... THE ELECTRIC BILL...
A LETTER ASKING YOU TO DO A LECTURE... JUNK MAIL...
IT'S NOT THAT HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY WORK... IT'S THAT HE DOESN'T *WANT* TO WORK.
HEY!
Yoko Okino
YOU'VE *GOT* A LETTER FROM YOKO!
WHAT?
LOOKS LIKE AN INVITATION TO A PARTY...
OOOH!
IT'S AN *ENGAGEMENT PARTY!*
E...
SNAP
ENGAGEMENT?
SHE HAS A FRIEND WHO'S GETTING ENGAGED! AND THE FRIEND REALLY WANTS TO MEET DETECTIVE MOORE!
YOU'LL GO, WON'T YOU...
...DAD?
EN...
...GAGE...
...MENT...
I DON'T THINK HE CAN HEAR US.


HA HA... WHAT AN HONOR, YOKO!!
HOW KIND OF YOU TO INVITE ME TO YOUR *FRIEND'S* ENGAGEMENT PARTY!
I'M SORRY IT WAS ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE.
HOPE I DIDN'T SURPRISE YOU.
NAH, IT'S NO BIG DEAL!
YEAH, RIGHT... UNTIL WE EXPLAINED THINGS TO HIM, HE WAS A SOBBING WRECK.
SO WHEN DO WE MEET THIS FRIEND OF YOURS?
SOON! IT'S SOMEONE YOU ALL KNOW...
SOMEBODY WE KNOW?
YO! YOKO!
HUH?
LOOKS LIKE...
...YOU'VE BROUGHT THE SLEUTH ALONG!
OSAMU KENZAKI (26) ACTOR

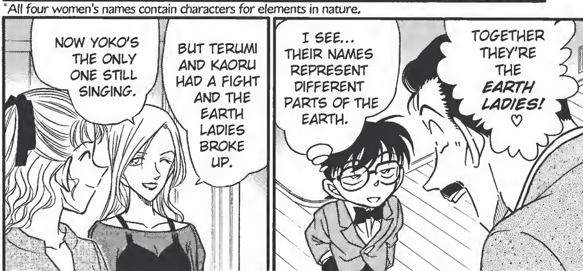

WOW... YOU'RE THE GUY WHO PLAYS DETECTIVE SAMONJI ON TV!
OSAMU KENZAKI?
SHH SHH
THEN YOU'RE YOKO'S FRIEND?
NAH... I'M THE HUSBAND-TO-BE! YOKO'S FRIEND IS THE WOMAN WHO'LL BE MY WIFE.
I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D REALLY BRING MR. MOORE ALONG.
BET SHE WAS PRETTY EXCITED.
ACTUALLY, I HAVEN'T TOLD HER YET.
I WANTED TO SURPRISE HER.
WELL, LET'S GO SEE HER REACTION!
DING DONG
NO ANSWER...
DING DONG
THEY SHOULD ALL BE HERE BY NOW...
HEY, THE DOOR'S UNLOCKED...
CHAK
YOU ...

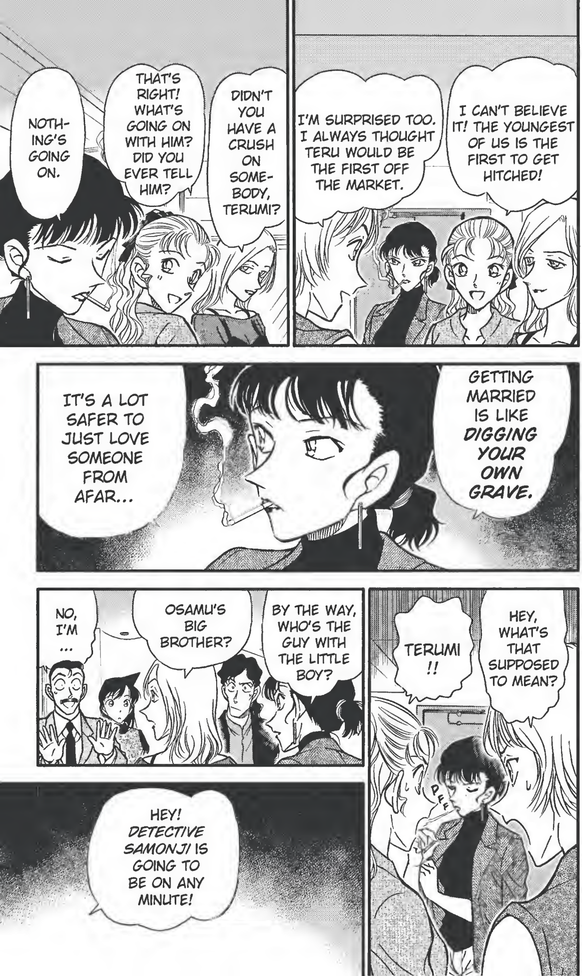

...STALKER!!!
HUH?
KRAK
HA HA HA HA HA
I'M SO SORRY, MR. MOORE! ATTACKING YOU LIKE THAT WHEN YOU WERE JUST COMING TO THE PARTY!
DON'T WORRY... IT'S NOT EVERY DAY I GET ASSAULTED BY A MOVIE STAR!
I'VE HAD THIS STALKER PROBLEM LATELY, AND WHEN I LOOKED THROUGH THE PEEPHOLE AND SAW A MAN I DIDN'T KNOW...
DOESN'T SHE KNOW THE FACE OF THE DETECTIVE SHE WANTS TO MEET?
THEN YOKO'S FRIEND WHO'S ENGAGED TO MR. KENZAKI IS...
THAT'S RIGHT!

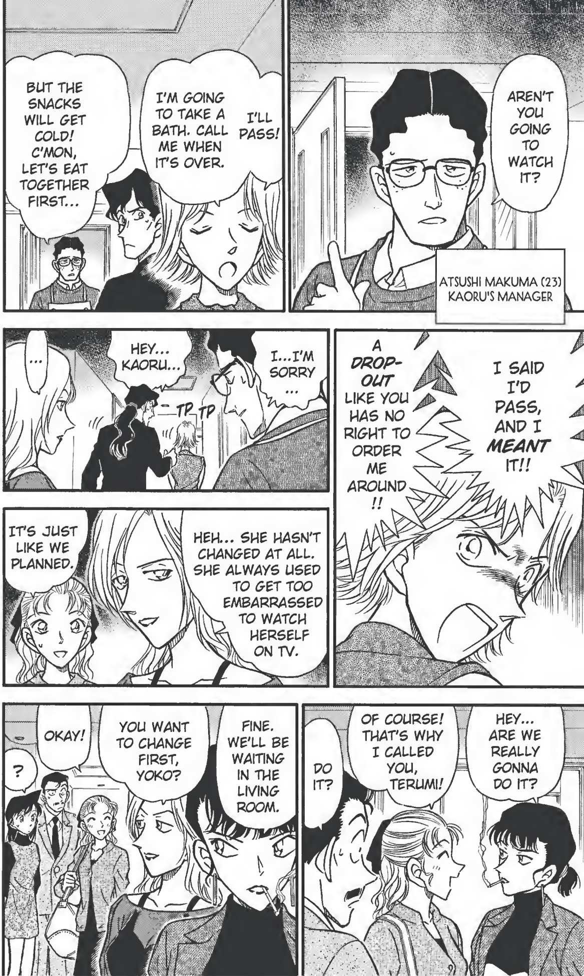

THE ACTUAL WEDDING WON'T BE UNTIL THE SPRING.
SO IF THE PAPARAZZI ASK, THIS IS STILL OFF THE RECORD.
COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU'RE IN DETECTIVE SAMONJI TOO, AREN'T YOU, MISS KAORU?
THAT'S RIGHT! WE CAN TOAST THOSE TWO AS WE WATCH IT ON TV TONIGHT!
SHF
KAORU KUSANO (20) ACTRESS
A GOLDEN COUPLE FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM!
YUKI TAKENO (22) VARIETY PERFORMER
WOW! IT'S YUKI TAKENO!!
THOSE ARE REAL FLASHY NAILS YOU'VE GOT THERE, YUKI.
NICE, AREN'T THEY? THEY'RE FAKE, OF COURSE.
AH... WHAT A PITY!
YOKO OKINO, KAORU KUSANO, YUKI TAKENO...
ONE MORE AND IT'D BE ALL FOUR ...
YOU CALLED?

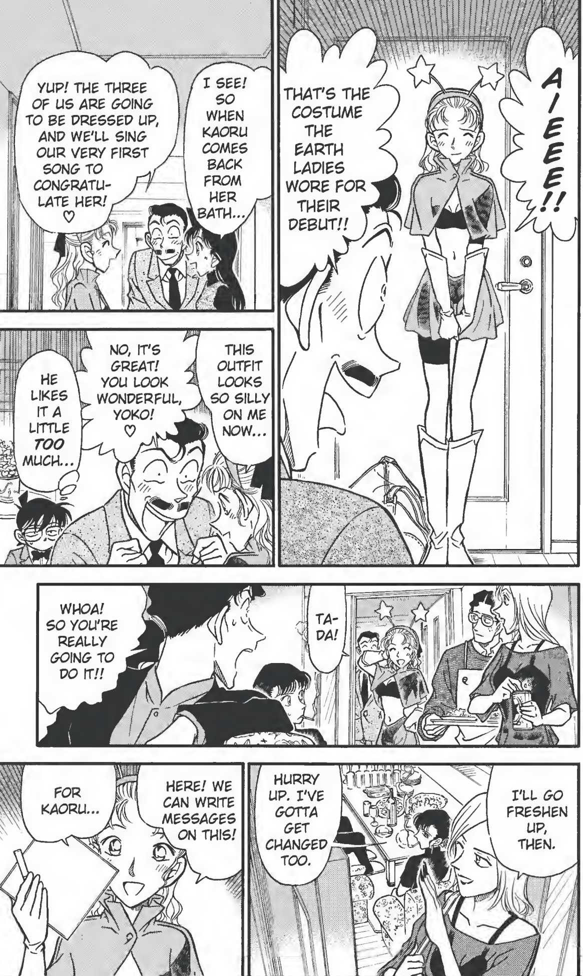

WHAT?
TERU-MI!!!
TERUMI HOSHINO (23) ACTRESS
YOU MADE IT, TERU.
YOKO TWISTED MY ARM.
IF YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM, I CAN GO.
NOW, NOW... IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE ALL FOUR EARTH LADIES WERE IN ONE ROOM...
EARTH LADIES?
YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO REMEMBER.
KAORU KUSANO, THE VERDANT GREEN PRAIRIE!
YUKI TAKENO, THE WHITE SNOW-CAPPED MOUNTAINS!
TERUMI HOSHINO, THE SPARKLING STARS IN THE VELVET NIGHT!
AND YOKO OKINO, THE SHINING BLUE SEA!*

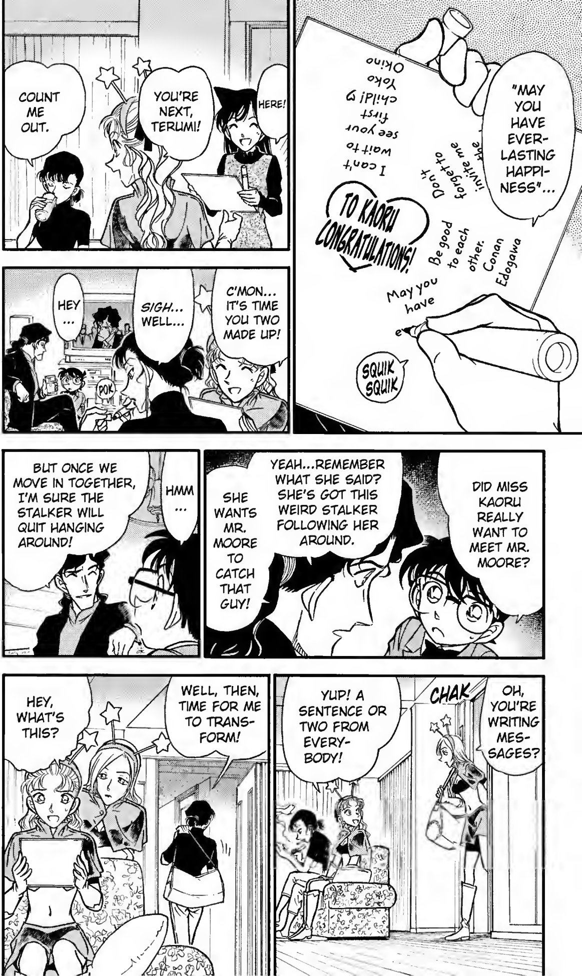
*All four women's names contain characters for elements in nature.

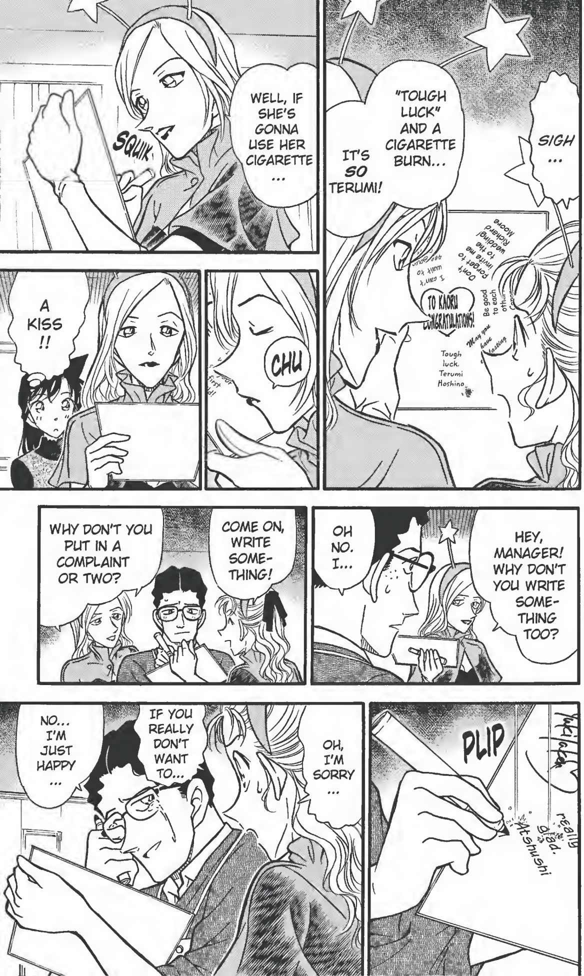

TOGETHER THEY'RE THE *EARTH LADIES!* ♡
I SEE... THEIR NAMES REPRESENT DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE EARTH.
BUT TERUMI AND KAORU HAD A FIGHT AND THE EARTH LADIES BROKE UP.
NOW YOKO'S THE ONLY ONE STILL SINGING.

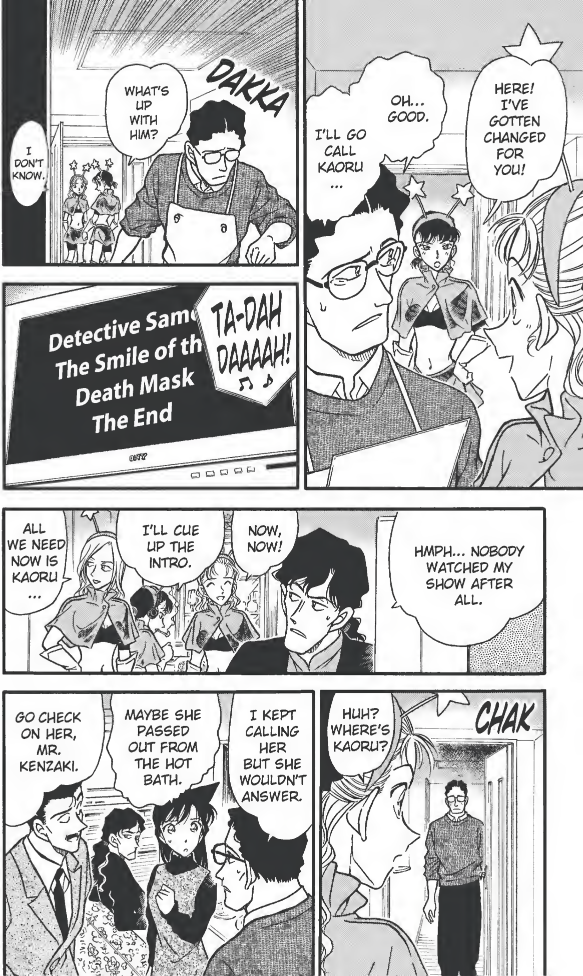

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! THE YOUNGEST OF US IS THE FIRST TO GET HITCHED!
I'M SURPRISED TOO. I ALWAYS THOUGHT TERU WOULD BE THE FIRST OFF THE MARKET.
DIDN'T YOU HAVE A CRUSH ON SOMEBODY, TERUMI?
THAT'S RIGHT! WHAT'S GOING ON WITH HIM? DID YOU EVER TELL HIM?
NOTHING'S GOING ON.
GETTING MARRIED IS LIKE *DIGGING YOUR OWN GRAVE.*
IT'S A LOT SAFER TO JUST LOVE SOMEONE FROM AFAR...
HEY, WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
TERUMI!!
PFF
BY THE WAY, WHO'S THE GUY WITH THE LITTLE BOY?
OSAMU'S BIG BROTHER?
NO, I'M ...
HEY! *DETECTIVE SAMONJI* IS GOING TO BE ON ANY MINUTE!

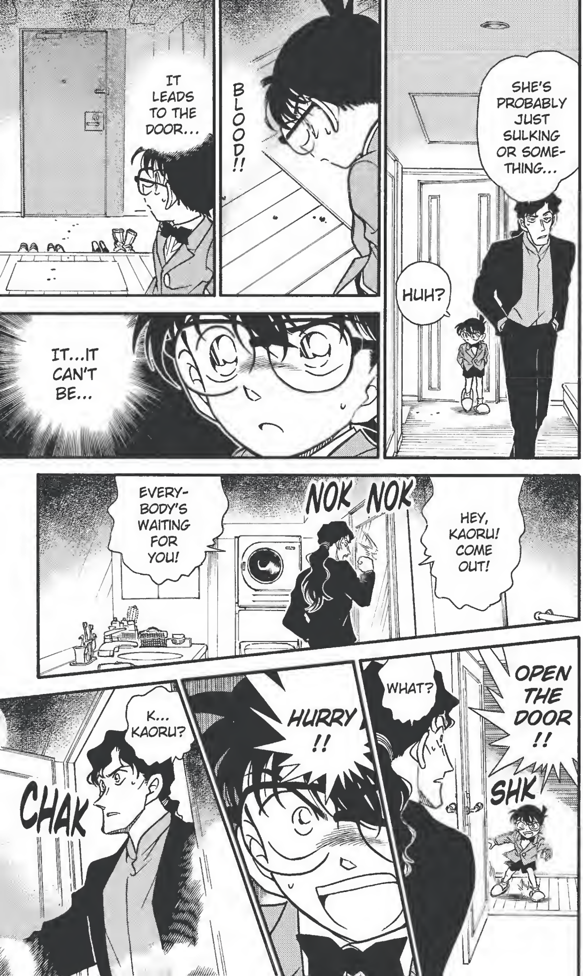

AREN'T YOU GOING TO WATCH IT?
ATSUSHI MAKUMA (23) KAORU'S MANAGER
I'LL PASS!
I'M GOING TO TAKE A BATH. CALL ME WHEN IT'S OVER.
BUT THE SNACKS WILL GET COLD! C'MON, LET'S EAT TOGETHER FIRST...
I SAID I'D PASS, AND I *MEANT* IT!!
A *DROP-OUT* LIKE YOU HAS NO RIGHT TO ORDER ME AROUND!!
I...I'M SORRY...
TP TP
HEY... KAORU...
...
HEH... SHE HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL. SHE ALWAYS USED TO GET TOO EMBARRASSED TO WATCH HERSELF ON TV.
IT'S JUST LIKE WE PLANNED.
HEY... ARE WE REALLY GONNA DO IT?
OF COURSE! THAT'S WHY I CALLED YOU, TERUMI!
DO IT?
FINE. WE'LL BE WAITING IN THE LIVING ROOM.
YOU WANT TO CHANGE FIRST, YOKO?
OKAY!
?

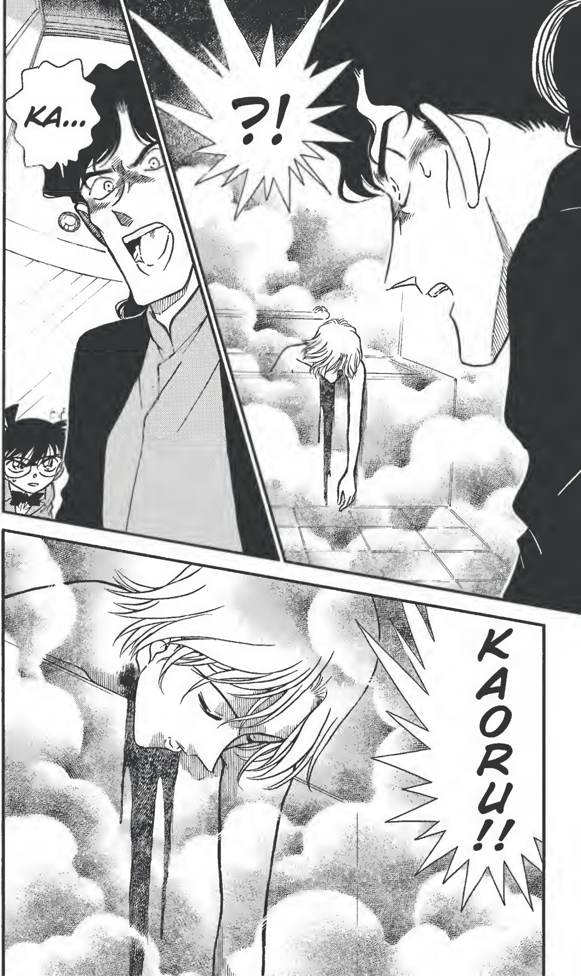

AIEEE!!
THAT'S THE COSTUME THE EARTH LADIES WORE FOR THEIR DEBUT!!
I SEE! SO WHEN KAORU COMES BACK FROM HER BATH...
YUP! THE THREE OF US ARE GOING TO BE DRESSED UP, AND WE'LL SING OUR VERY FIRST SONG TO CONGRATULATE HER! ♡
THIS OUTFIT LOOKS SO SILLY ON ME NOW...
NO, IT'S GREAT! YOU LOOK WONDERFUL, YOKO! ♡
HE LIKES IT A LITTLE ***TOO*** MUCH...
TA-DA!
WHOA! SO YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO DO IT!!
I'LL GO FRESHEN UP, THEN.
HURRY UP. I'VE GOTTA GET CHANGED TOO.
HERE! WE CAN WRITE MESSAGES ON THIS!
FOR KAORU...


"MAY YOU HAVE EVER-LASTING HAPPI-NESS"...
I can't wait to see your first child! ♡ Yoko Okino
Don't forget to invite me the
TO KAORU CONGRATULATIONS!
Be good to each other. Conan Edogawa
May you have e
SQUIK SQUIK
HERE!
YOU'RE NEXT, TERUMI!
COUNT ME OUT.
C'MON... IT'S TIME YOU TWO MADE UP!
SIGH... WELL...
HEY ...
POK
DID MISS KAORU REALLY WANT TO MEET MR. MOORE?
YEAH...REMEMBER WHAT SHE SAID? SHE'S GOT THIS WEIRD STALKER FOLLOWING HER AROUND.
SHE WANTS MR. MOORE TO CATCH THAT GUY!
HMM ...
BUT ONCE WE MOVE IN TOGETHER, I'M SURE THE STALKER WILL QUIT HANGING AROUND!
OH, YOU'RE WRITING MES-SAGES?
CHAK
YUP! A SENTENCE OR TWO FROM EVERY-BODY!
WELL, THEN, TIME FOR ME TO TRANS-FORM!
HEY, WHAT'S THIS?

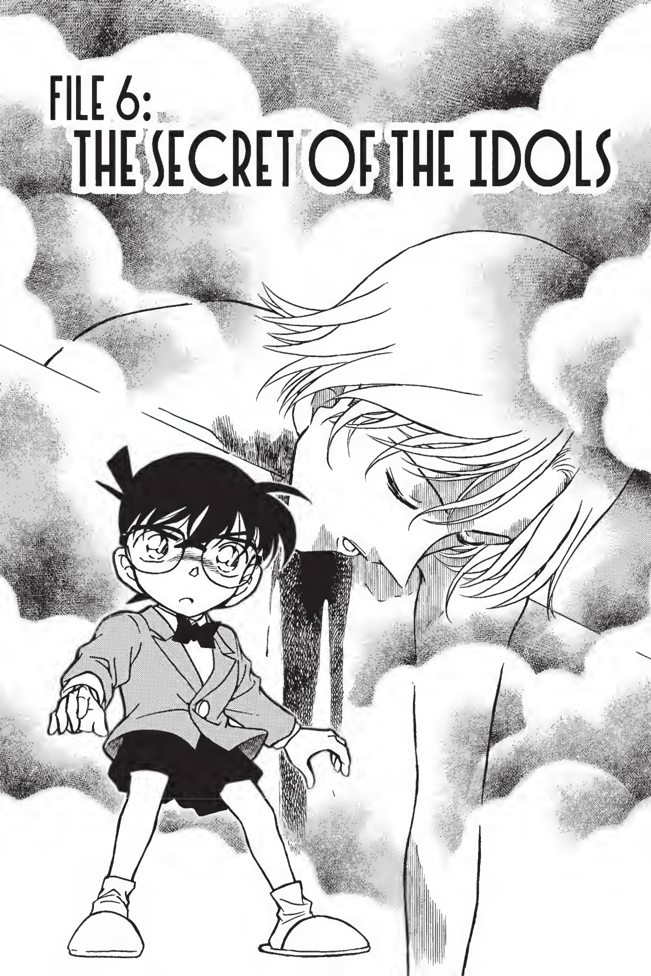

WELL, IF SHE'S GONNA USE HER CIGARETTE ...
SQUIK
A KISS !!
CHU
first
SIGH ...
"TOUGH LUCK" AND A CIGARETTE BURN...
IT'S SO TERUMI!
TO KAORU CONGRATULATIONS!
I can't wait to see your
Don't forget to invite me to the wedding! Richard Moore
Be good to each other.
May you have a lasting
Tough luck. Terumi Hoshino
HEY, MANAGER! WHY DON'T YOU WRITE SOMETHING TOO?
OH NO. I...
COME ON, WRITE SOMETHING!
WHY DON'T YOU PUT IN A COMPLAINT OR TWO?
OH, I'M SORRY ...
IF YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO...
NO... I'M JUST HAPPY ...
PLIP
really glad. Atsushi

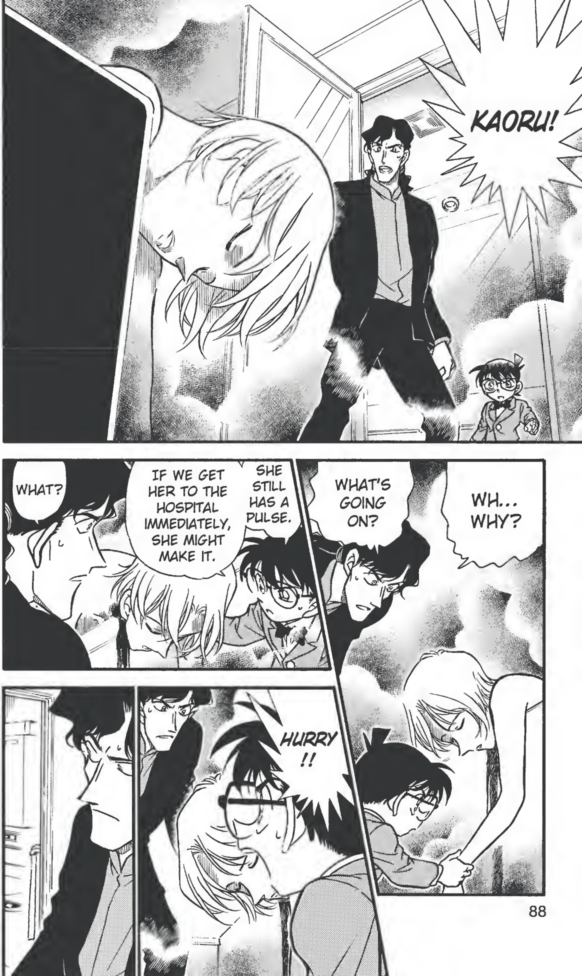

HERE! I'VE GOTTEN CHANGED FOR YOU!
OH... GOOD.
I'LL GO CALL KAORU...
DAKKA
WHAT'S UP WITH HIM?
I DON'T KNOW.
Detective Sam
The Smile of th
Death Mask
The End
TA-DAH DAAAAH! ♫ ♪
HMPH... NOBODY WATCHED MY SHOW AFTER ALL.
NOW, NOW!
I'LL CUE UP THE INTRO.
ALL WE NEED NOW IS KAORU...
CHAK
HUH? WHERE'S KAORU?
I KEPT CALLING HER BUT SHE WOULDN'T ANSWER.
MAYBE SHE PASSED OUT FROM THE HOT BATH.
GO CHECK ON HER, MR. KENZAKI.

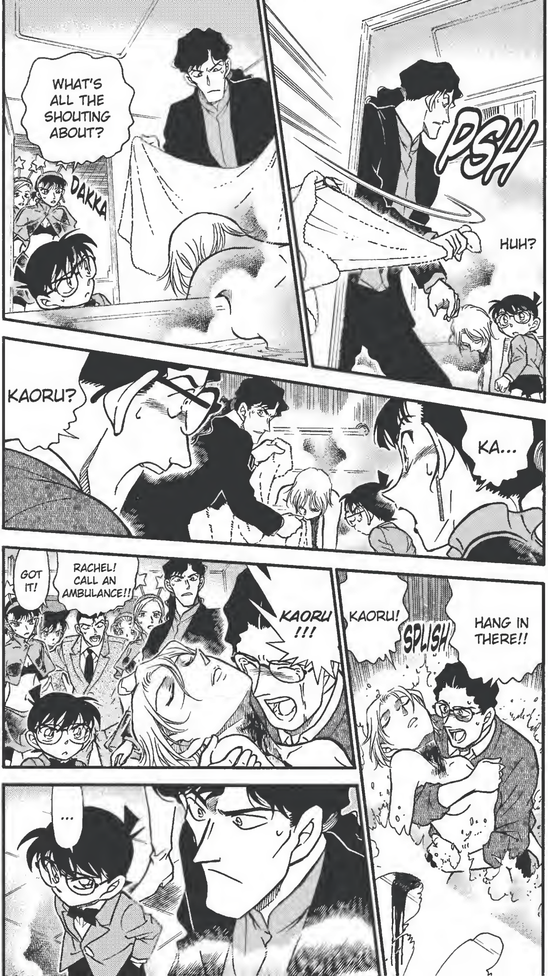

SHE'S PROBABLY JUST SULKING OR SOMETHING...
HUH?
BLOOD!!
IT LEADS TO THE DOOR...
IT...IT CAN'T BE...
HEY, KAORU! COME OUT!
NOK NOK
EVERYBODY'S WAITING FOR YOU!
OPEN THE DOOR!!
WHAT?
SHK
HURRY!!
K... KAORU?
CHAK

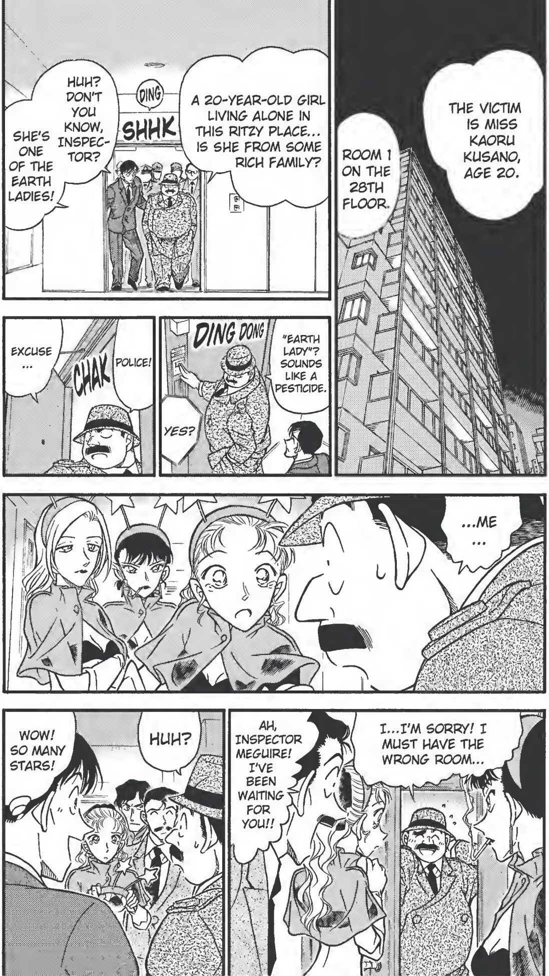

?!
KA...
KAORU!!

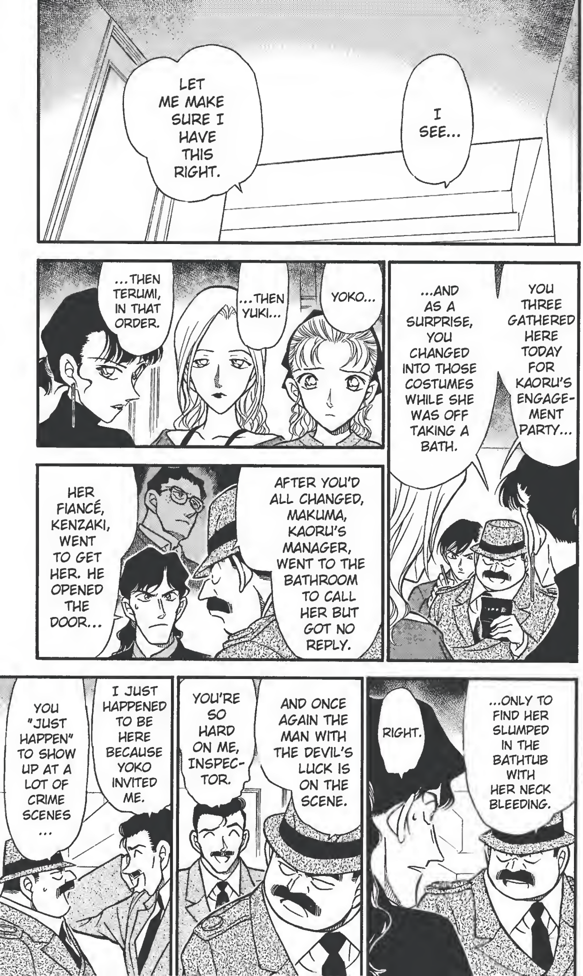
FILE 6:
THE SECRET OF THE IDOLS

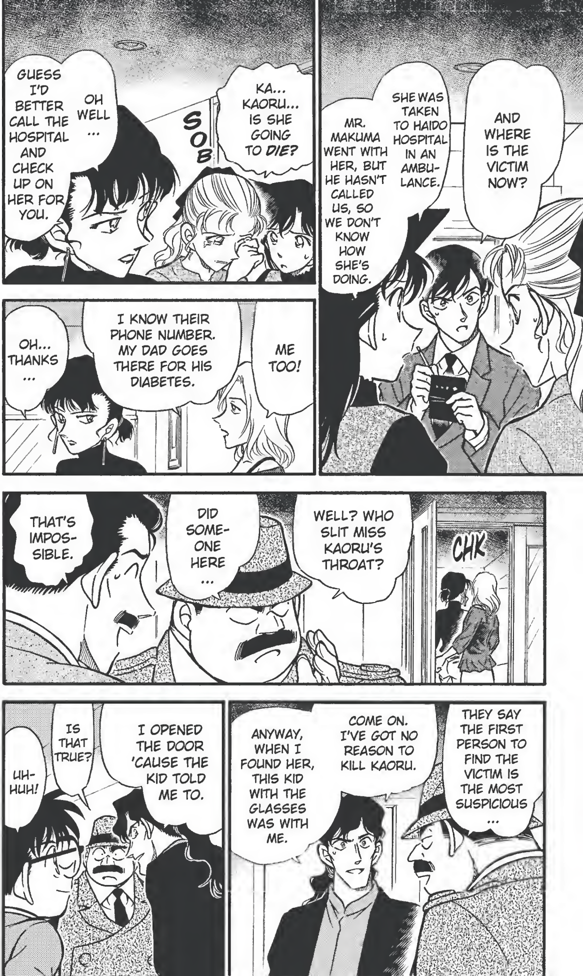


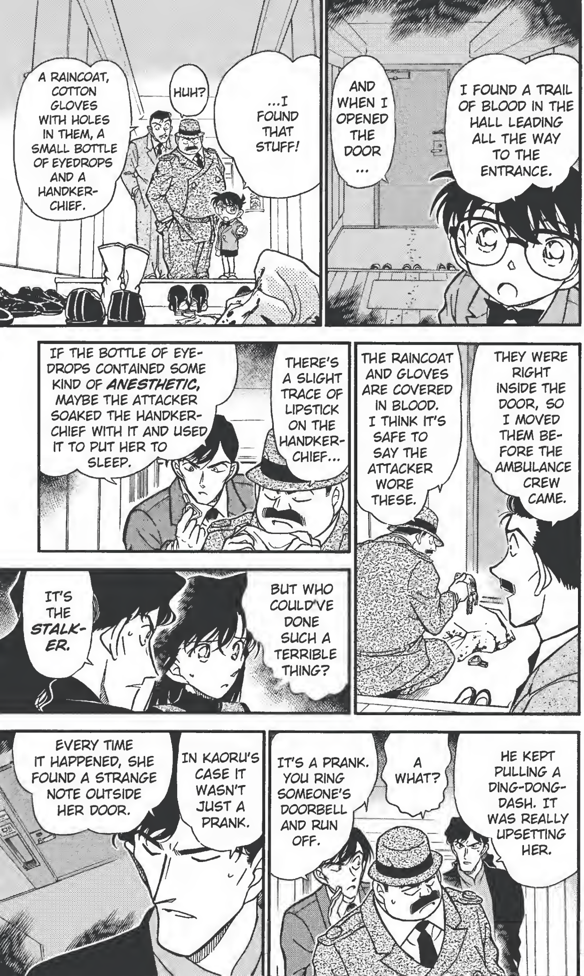

KAORU!
WH... WHY?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
SHE STILL HAS A PULSE.
IF WE GET HER TO THE HOSPITAL IMMEDIATELY, SHE MIGHT MAKE IT.
WHAT?
HURRY!!

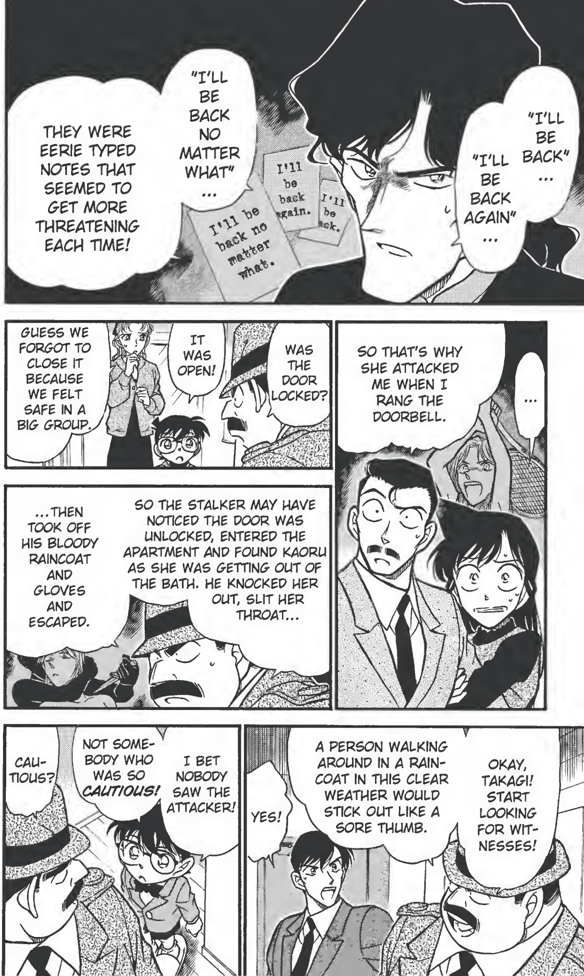

PSH
HUH?
WHAT'S ALL THE SHOUTING ABOUT?
DAKKA
KA...
KAORU?
KAORU!
SPLISH
HANG IN THERE!!
KAORU!!!
RACHEL! CALL AN AMBULANCE!!
GOT IT!
...

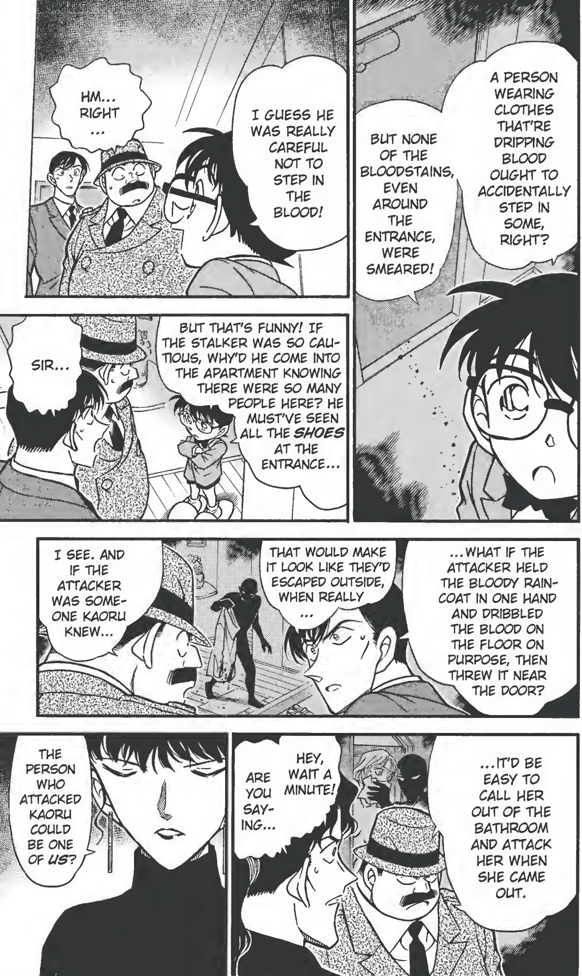

THE VICTIM IS MISS KAORU KUSANO, AGE 20.
ROOM 1 ON THE 28TH FLOOR.
A 20-YEAR-OLD GIRL LIVING ALONE IN THIS RITZY PLACE... IS SHE FROM SOME RICH FAMILY?
DING
SHHK
HUH? DON'T YOU KNOW, INSPECTOR?
SHE'S ONE OF THE EARTH LADIES!
DING DONG
"EARTH LADY"? SOUNDS LIKE A PESTICIDE.
YES?
POLICE!
CHAK
EXCUSE ...
...ME ...
I...I'M SORRY! I MUST HAVE THE WRONG ROOM...
AH, INSPECTOR MEGUIRE! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!!
HUH?
WOW! SO MANY STARS!

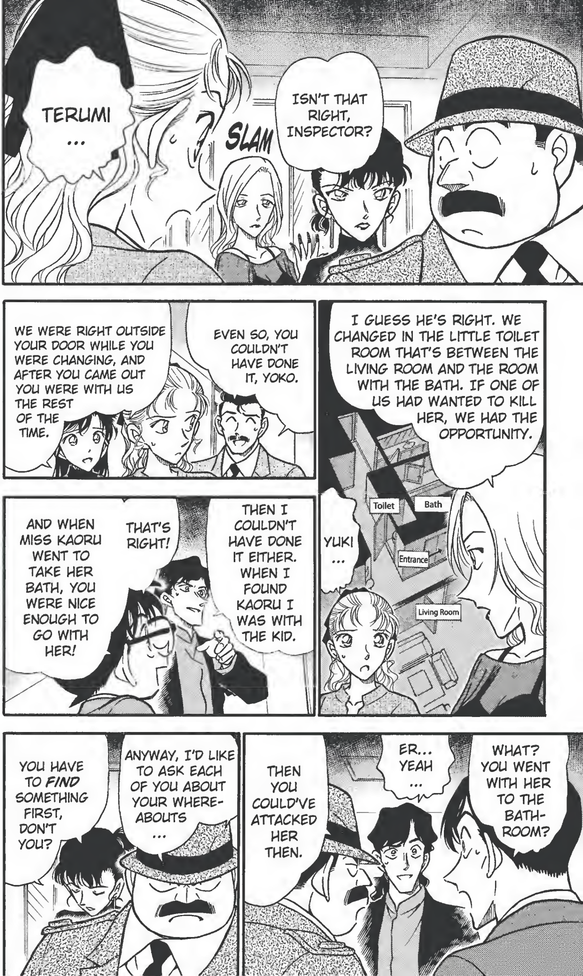

I SEE...
LET ME MAKE SURE I HAVE THIS RIGHT.
YOU THREE GATHERED HERE TODAY FOR KAORU'S ENGAGEMENT PARTY...
...AND AS A SURPRISE, YOU CHANGED INTO THOSE COSTUMES WHILE SHE WAS OFF TAKING A BATH.
YOKO...
...THEN YUKI...
...THEN TERUMI, IN THAT ORDER.
AFTER YOU'D ALL CHANGED, MAKUMA, KAORU'S MANAGER, WENT TO THE BATHROOM TO CALL HER BUT GOT NO REPLY.
HER FIANCÉ, KENZAKI, WENT TO GET HER. HE OPENED THE DOOR...
...ONLY TO FIND HER SLUMPED IN THE BATHTUB WITH HER NECK BLEEDING.
RIGHT.
AND ONCE AGAIN THE MAN WITH THE DEVIL'S LUCK IS ON THE SCENE.
YOU'RE SO HARD ON ME, INSPECTOR.
I JUST HAPPENED TO BE HERE BECAUSE YOKO INVITED ME.
YOU "JUST HAPPEN" TO SHOW UP AT A LOT OF CRIME SCENES ...

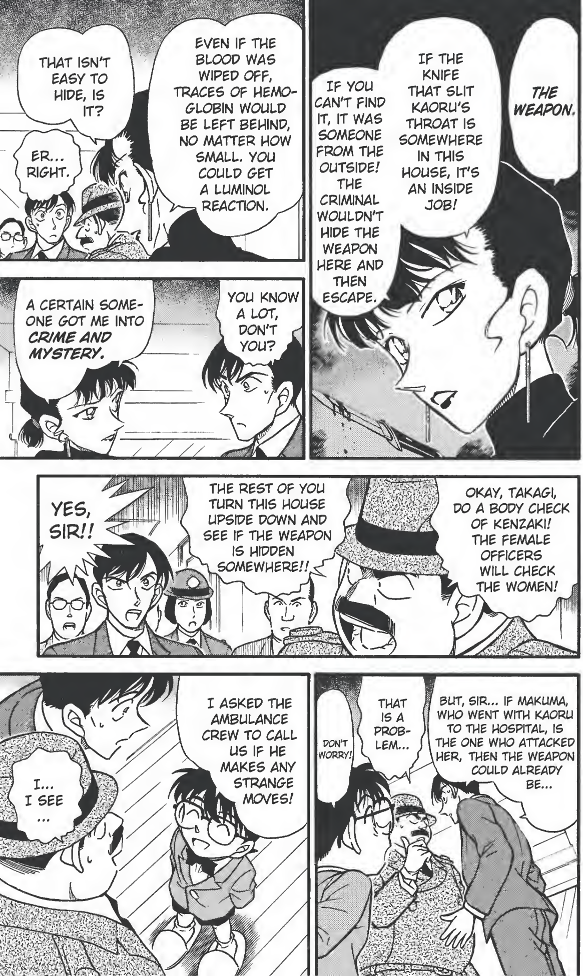

AND WHERE IS THE VICTIM NOW?
SHE WAS TAKEN TO HAIDO HOSPITAL IN AN AMBULANCE.
MR. MAKUMA WENT WITH HER, BUT HE HASN'T CALLED US, SO WE DON'T KNOW HOW SHE'S DOING.
KA... KAORU... IS SHE GOING TO *DIE?*
SOB
OH WELL ...
GUESS I'D BETTER CALL THE HOSPITAL AND CHECK UP ON HER FOR YOU.
ME TOO!
I KNOW THEIR PHONE NUMBER. MY DAD GOES THERE FOR HIS DIABETES.
OH... THANKS ...
CHK
WELL? WHO SLIT MISS KAORU'S THROAT?
DID SOMEONE HERE ...
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
THEY SAY THE FIRST PERSON TO FIND THE VICTIM IS THE MOST SUSPICIOUS ...
COME ON. I'VE GOT NO REASON TO KILL KAORU.
ANYWAY, WHEN I FOUND HER, THIS KID WITH THE GLASSES WAS WITH ME.
I OPENED THE DOOR 'CAUSE THE KID TOLD ME TO.
IS THAT TRUE?
UH-HUH!

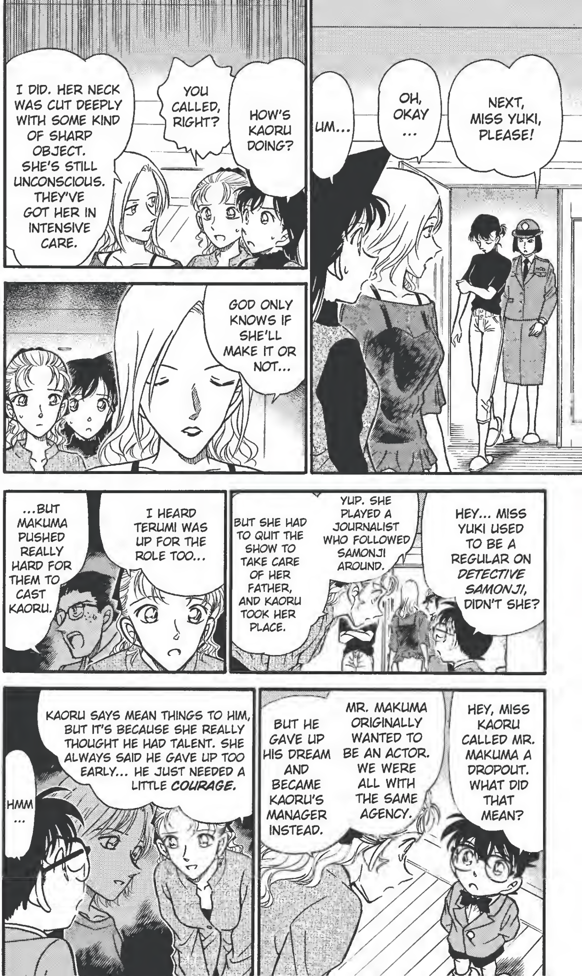

I FOUND A TRAIL OF BLOOD IN THE HALL LEADING ALL THE WAY TO THE ENTRANCE.
AND WHEN I OPENED THE DOOR...
...I FOUND THAT STUFF!
HUH?
A RAINCOAT, COTTON GLOVES WITH HOLES IN THEM, A SMALL BOTTLE OF EYEDROPS AND A HANDKERCHIEF.
THEY WERE RIGHT INSIDE THE DOOR, SO I MOVED THEM BEFORE THE AMBULANCE CREW CAME.
THE RAINCOAT AND GLOVES ARE COVERED IN BLOOD. I THINK IT'S SAFE TO SAY THE ATTACKER WORE THESE.
THERE'S A SLIGHT TRACE OF LIPSTICK ON THE HANDKERCHIEF...
IF THE BOTTLE OF EYEDROPS CONTAINED SOME KIND OF *ANESTHETIC,* MAYBE THE ATTACKER SOAKED THE HANDKERCHIEF WITH IT AND USED IT TO PUT HER TO SLEEP.
BUT WHO COULD'VE DONE SUCH A TERRIBLE THING?
IT'S THE *STALKER.*
HE KEPT PULLING A DING-DONG-DASH. IT WAS REALLY UPSETTING HER.
A WHAT?
IT'S A PRANK. YOU RING SOMEONE'S DOORBELL AND RUN OFF.
IN KAORU'S CASE IT WASN'T JUST A PRANK.
EVERY TIME IT HAPPENED, SHE FOUND A STRANGE NOTE OUTSIDE HER DOOR.

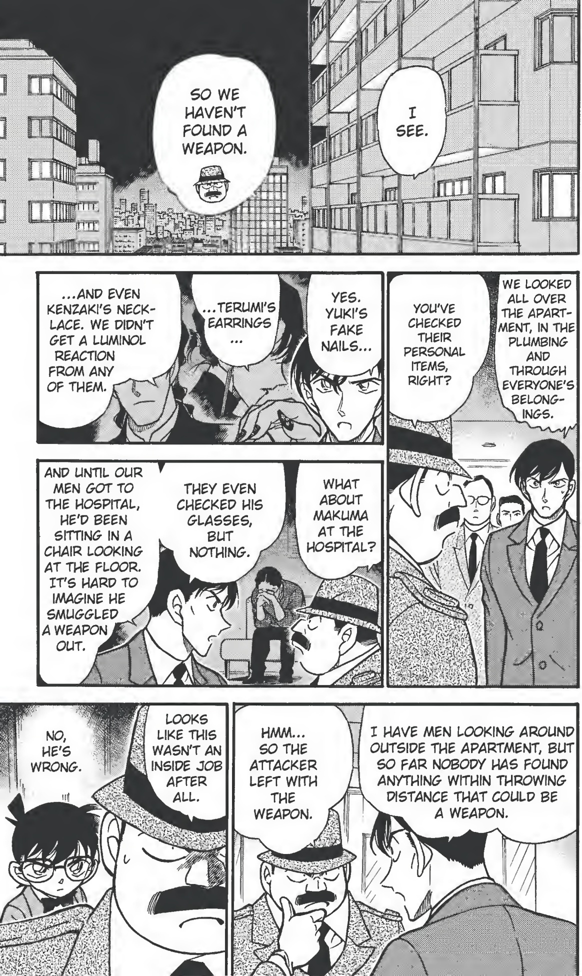

"I'LL BE BACK" ...
"I'LL BE BACK AGAIN" ...
"I'LL BE BACK NO MATTER WHAT" ...
I'll be back.
I'll be back again.
I'll be back no matter what.
THEY WERE EERIE TYPED NOTES THAT SEEMED TO GET MORE THREATENING EACH TIME!
...
SO THAT'S WHY SHE ATTACKED ME WHEN I RANG THE DOORBELL.
WAS THE DOOR LOCKED?
IT WAS OPEN!
GUESS WE FORGOT TO CLOSE IT BECAUSE WE FELT SAFE IN A BIG GROUP.
SO THE STALKER MAY HAVE NOTICED THE DOOR WAS UNLOCKED, ENTERED THE APARTMENT AND FOUND KAORU AS SHE WAS GETTING OUT OF THE BATH. HE KNOCKED HER OUT, SLIT HER THROAT...
...THEN TOOK OFF HIS BLOODY RAINCOAT AND GLOVES AND ESCAPED.
OKAY, TAKAGI! START LOOKING FOR WITNESSES!
A PERSON WALKING AROUND IN A RAINCOAT IN THIS CLEAR WEATHER WOULD STICK OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB.
YES!
I BET NOBODY SAW THE ATTACKER!
NOT SOMEBODY WHO WAS SO *CAUTIOUS!*
CAUTIOUS?

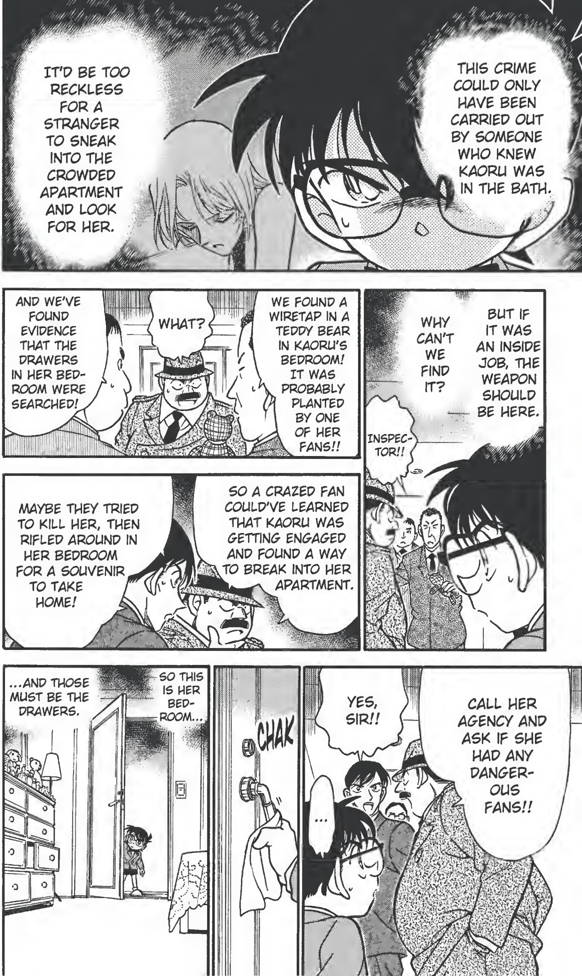

A PERSON WEARING CLOTHES THAT'RE DRIPPING BLOOD OUGHT TO ACCIDENTALLY STEP IN SOME, RIGHT?
BUT NONE OF THE BLOODSTAINS, EVEN AROUND THE ENTRANCE, WERE SMEARED!
I GUESS HE WAS REALLY CAREFUL NOT TO STEP IN THE BLOOD!
HM... RIGHT ...
BUT THAT'S FUNNY! IF THE STALKER WAS SO CAUTIOUS, WHY'D HE COME INTO THE APARTMENT KNOWING THERE WERE SO MANY PEOPLE HERE? HE MUST'VE SEEN ALL THE ***SHOES*** AT THE ENTRANCE...
SIR...
...WHAT IF THE ATTACKER HELD THE BLOODY RAINCOAT IN ONE HAND AND DRIBBLED THE BLOOD ON THE FLOOR ON PURPOSE, THEN THREW IT NEAR THE DOOR?
THAT WOULD MAKE IT LOOK LIKE THEY'D ESCAPED OUTSIDE, WHEN REALLY ...
I SEE. AND IF THE ATTACKER WAS SOMEONE KAORU KNEW...
...IT'D BE EASY TO CALL HER OUT OF THE BATHROOM AND ATTACK HER WHEN SHE CAME OUT.
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE!
ARE YOU SAYING...
THE PERSON WHO ATTACKED KAORU COULD BE ONE OF ***US***?

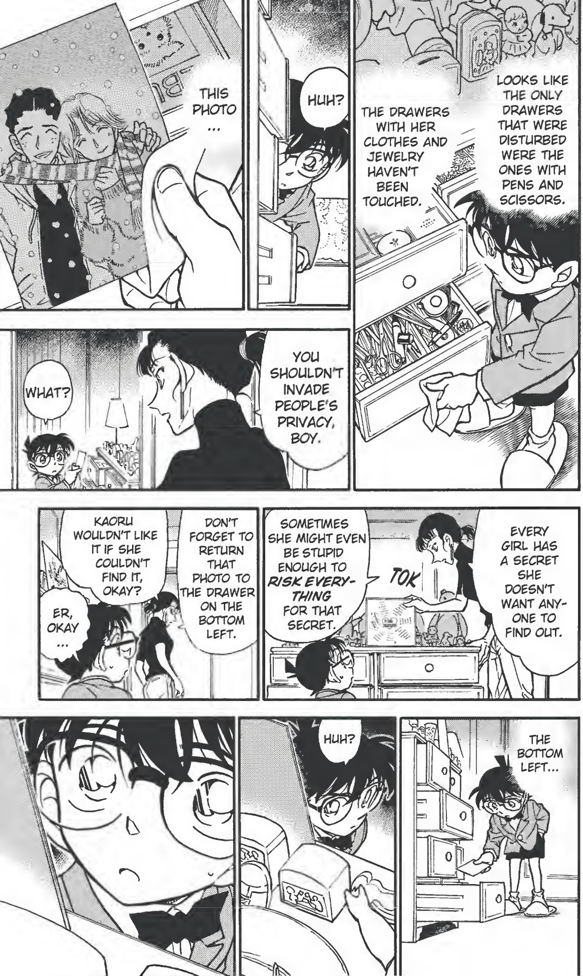

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, INSPECTOR?
SLAM
TERUMI ...
I GUESS HE'S RIGHT. WE CHANGED IN THE LITTLE TOILET ROOM THAT'S BETWEEN THE LIVING ROOM AND THE ROOM WITH THE BATH. IF ONE OF US HAD WANTED TO KILL HER, WE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY.
EVEN SO, YOU COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT, YOKO.
WE WERE RIGHT OUTSIDE YOUR DOOR WHILE YOU WERE CHANGING, AND AFTER YOU CAME OUT YOU WERE WITH US THE REST OF THE TIME.
Toilet
Bath
Entrance
Living Room
YUKI ...
THEN I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT EITHER. WHEN I FOUND KAORU I WAS WITH THE KID.
THAT'S RIGHT!
AND WHEN MISS KAORU WENT TO TAKE HER BATH, YOU WERE NICE ENOUGH TO GO WITH HER!
WHAT? YOU WENT WITH HER TO THE BATHROOM?
ER... YEAH ...
THEN YOU COULD'VE ATTACKED HER THEN.
ANYWAY, I'D LIKE TO ASK EACH OF YOU ABOUT YOUR WHEREABOUTS ...
YOU HAVE TO FIND SOMETHING FIRST, DON'T YOU?

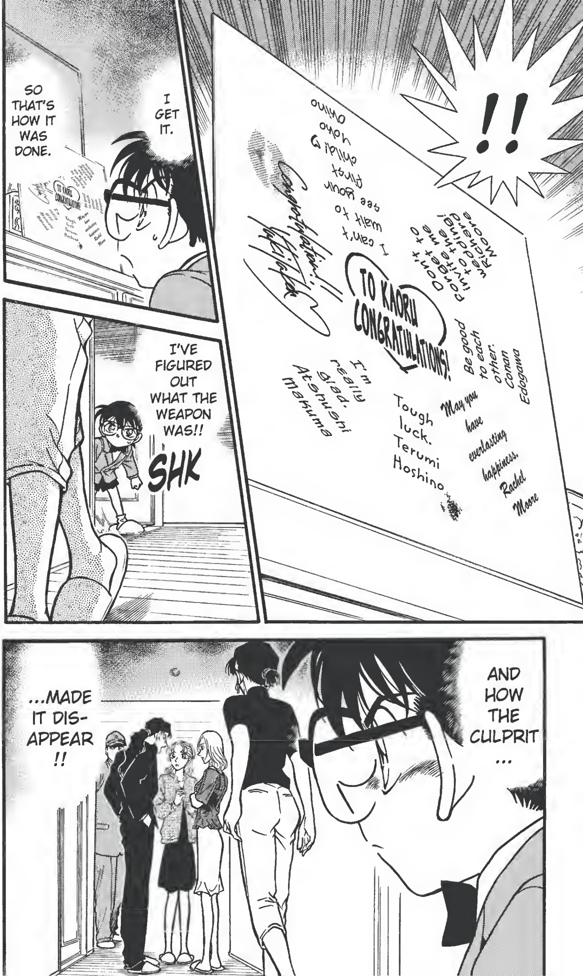

THE WEAPON.
IF THE KNIFE THAT SLIT KAORU'S THROAT IS SOMEWHERE IN THIS HOUSE, IT'S AN INSIDE JOB!
IF YOU CAN'T FIND IT, IT WAS SOMEONE FROM THE OUTSIDE! THE CRIMINAL WOULDN'T HIDE THE WEAPON HERE AND THEN ESCAPE.
EVEN IF THE BLOOD WAS WIPED OFF, TRACES OF HEMOGLOBIN WOULD BE LEFT BEHIND, NO MATTER HOW SMALL. YOU COULD GET A LUMINOL REACTION.
THAT ISN'T EASY TO HIDE, IS IT?
ER... RIGHT.
YOU KNOW A LOT, DON'T YOU?
A CERTAIN SOMEONE GOT ME INTO *CRIME AND MYSTERY.*
OKAY, TAKAGI, DO A BODY CHECK OF KENZAKI! THE FEMALE OFFICERS WILL CHECK THE WOMEN!
THE REST OF YOU TURN THIS HOUSE UPSIDE DOWN AND SEE IF THE WEAPON IS HIDDEN SOMEWHERE!!
YES, SIR!!
BUT, SIR... IF MAKUMA, WHO WENT WITH KAORU TO THE HOSPITAL, IS THE ONE WHO ATTACKED HER, THEN THE WEAPON COULD ALREADY BE...
THAT IS A PROBLEM...
DON'T WORRY!
I ASKED THE AMBULANCE CREW TO CALL US IF HE MAKES ANY STRANGE MOVES!
I... I SEE ...


HOW'S KAORU DOING?
YOU CALLED, RIGHT?
I DID. HER NECK WAS CUT DEEPLY WITH SOME KIND OF SHARP OBJECT. SHE'S STILL UNCONSCIOUS. THEY'VE GOT HER IN INTENSIVE CARE.
GOD ONLY KNOWS IF SHE'LL MAKE IT OR NOT…
NEXT, MISS YUKI, PLEASE!
OH, OKAY …
UM…
HEY… MISS YUKI USED TO BE A REGULAR ON *DETECTIVE SAMONJI*, DIDN'T SHE?
YUP. SHE PLAYED A JOURNALIST WHO FOLLOWED SAMONJI AROUND.
BUT SHE HAD TO QUIT THE SHOW TO TAKE CARE OF HER FATHER, AND KAORU TOOK HER PLACE.
I HEARD TERUMI WAS UP FOR THE ROLE TOO…
…BUT MAKUMA PUSHED REALLY HARD FOR THEM TO CAST KAORU.
HEY, MISS KAORU CALLED MR. MAKUMA A DROPOUT. WHAT DID THAT MEAN?
MR. MAKUMA ORIGINALLY WANTED TO BE AN ACTOR. WE WERE ALL WITH THE SAME AGENCY.
BUT HE GAVE UP HIS DREAM AND BECAME KAORU'S MANAGER INSTEAD.
KAORU SAYS MEAN THINGS TO HIM, BUT IT'S BECAUSE SHE REALLY THOUGHT HE HAD TALENT. SHE ALWAYS SAID HE GAVE UP TOO EARLY… HE JUST NEEDED A LITTLE *COURAGE.*
HMM …

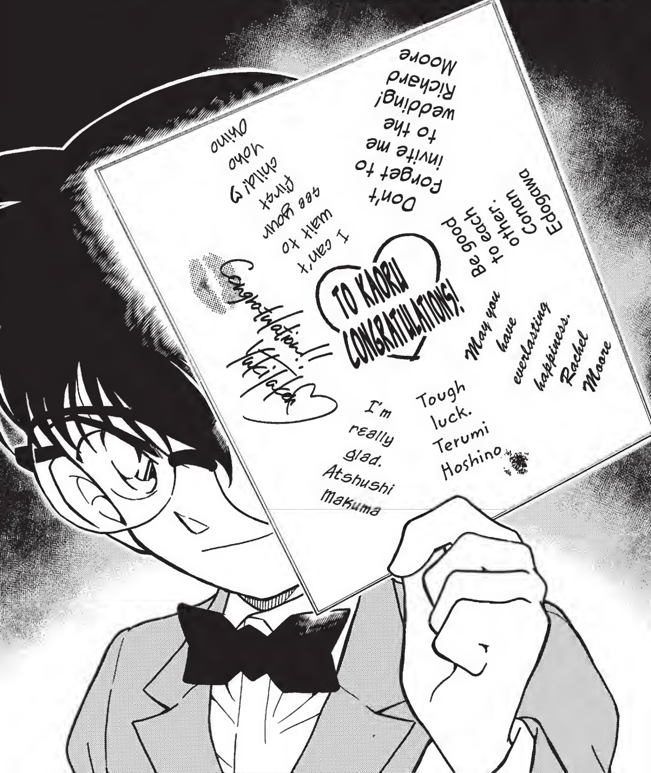

I SEE.
SO WE HAVEN'T FOUND A WEAPON.
WE LOOKED ALL OVER THE APARTMENT, IN THE PLUMBING AND THROUGH EVERYONE'S BELONGINGS.
YOU'VE CHECKED THEIR PERSONAL ITEMS, RIGHT?
YES. YUKI'S FAKE NAILS...
...TERUMI'S EARRINGS...
...AND EVEN KENZAKI'S NECKLACE. WE DIDN'T GET A LUMINOL REACTION FROM ANY OF THEM.
WHAT ABOUT MAKUMA AT THE HOSPITAL?
THEY EVEN CHECKED HIS GLASSES, BUT NOTHING.
AND UNTIL OUR MEN GOT TO THE HOSPITAL, HE'D BEEN SITTING IN A CHAIR LOOKING AT THE FLOOR. IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE HE SMUGGLED A WEAPON OUT.
I HAVE MEN LOOKING AROUND OUTSIDE THE APARTMENT, BUT SO FAR NOBODY HAS FOUND ANYTHING WITHIN THROWING DISTANCE THAT COULD BE A WEAPON.
HMM... SO THE ATTACKER LEFT WITH THE WEAPON.
LOOKS LIKE THIS WASN'T AN INSIDE JOB AFTER ALL.
NO, HE'S WRONG.

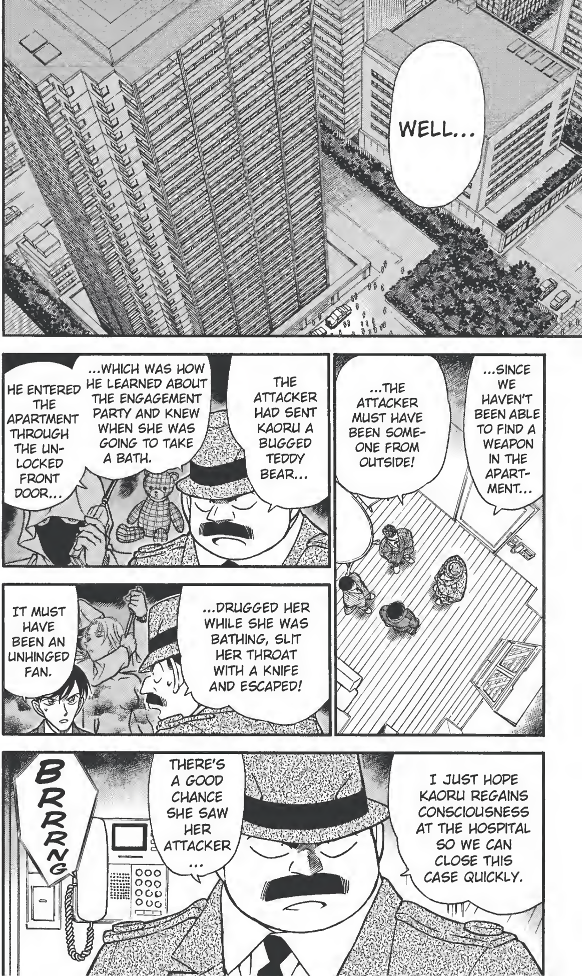

THIS CRIME COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT BY SOMEONE WHO KNEW KAORU WAS IN THE BATH.
IT'D BE TOO RECKLESS FOR A STRANGER TO SNEAK INTO THE CROWDED APARTMENT AND LOOK FOR HER.
BUT IF IT WAS AN INSIDE JOB, THE WEAPON SHOULD BE HERE.
WHY CAN'T WE FIND IT?
INSPECTOR!!
WE FOUND A WIRETAP IN A TEDDY BEAR IN KAORU'S BEDROOM! IT WAS PROBABLY PLANTED BY ONE OF HER FANS!!
WHAT?
AND WE'VE FOUND EVIDENCE THAT THE DRAWERS IN HER BEDROOM WERE SEARCHED!
SO A CRAZED FAN COULD'VE LEARNED THAT KAORU WAS GETTING ENGAGED AND FOUND A WAY TO BREAK INTO HER APARTMENT.
MAYBE THEY TRIED TO KILL HER, THEN RIFLED AROUND IN HER BEDROOM FOR A SOUVENIR TO TAKE HOME!
CALL HER AGENCY AND ASK IF SHE HAD ANY DANGEROUS FANS!!
YES, SIR!!
...
CHAK
SO THIS IS HER BEDROOM...
...AND THOSE MUST BE THE DRAWERS.

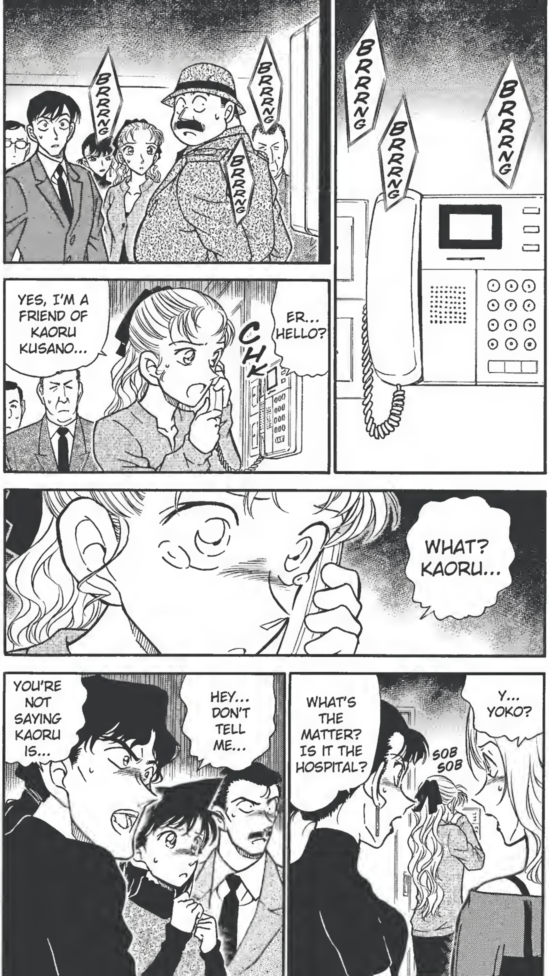

LOOKS LIKE THE ONLY DRAWERS THAT WERE DISTURBED WERE THE ONES WITH PENS AND SCISSORS.
THE DRAWERS WITH HER CLOTHES AND JEWELRY HAVEN'T BEEN TOUCHED.
HUH?
THIS PHOTO ...
YOU SHOULDN'T INVADE PEOPLE'S PRIVACY, BOY.
WHAT?
EVERY GIRL HAS A SECRET SHE DOESN'T WANT ANYONE TO FIND OUT.
SOMETIMES SHE MIGHT EVEN BE STUPID ENOUGH TO *RISK EVERYTHING* FOR THAT SECRET.
TOK
DON'T FORGET TO RETURN THAT PHOTO TO THE DRAWER ON THE BOTTOM LEFT.
KAORU WOULDN'T LIKE IT IF SHE COULDN'T FIND IT, OKAY?
ER, OKAY ...
THE BOTTOM LEFT...
HUH?

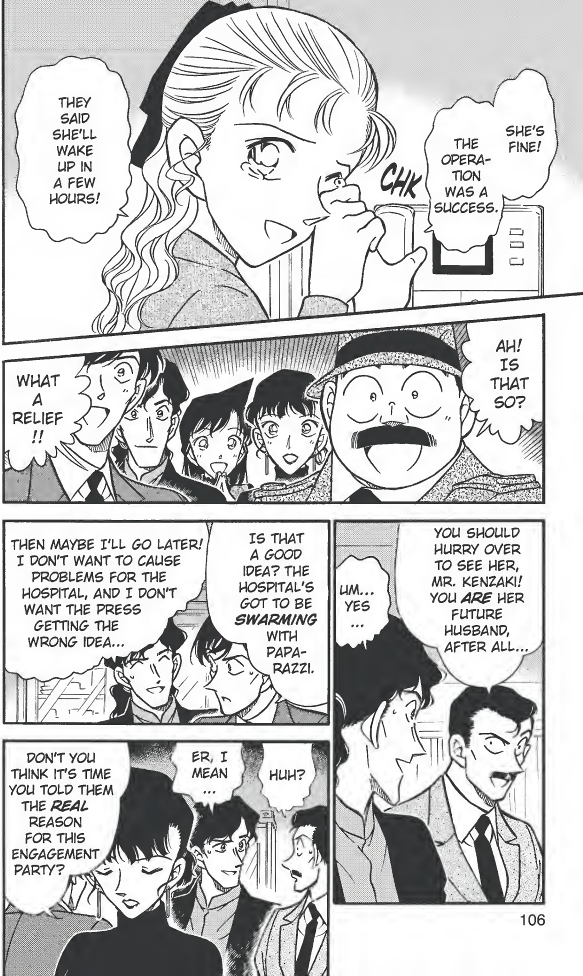

!!
TO KAORU CONGRATULATIONS!
I can't wait to see your first child! Yoko Okino
Don't forget to invite me to the wedding! Richard Moore
Congratulations!
Be good to each other. Conan Edogawa
May you have everlasting happiness. Rachel Moore
Tough luck. Terumi Hoshino
I'm really glad. Atsushi Makuma
I GET IT.
SO THAT'S HOW IT WAS DONE.
I'VE FIGURED OUT WHAT THE WEAPON WAS!!
SHK
AND HOW THE CULPRIT...
...MADE IT DIS-APPEAR!!

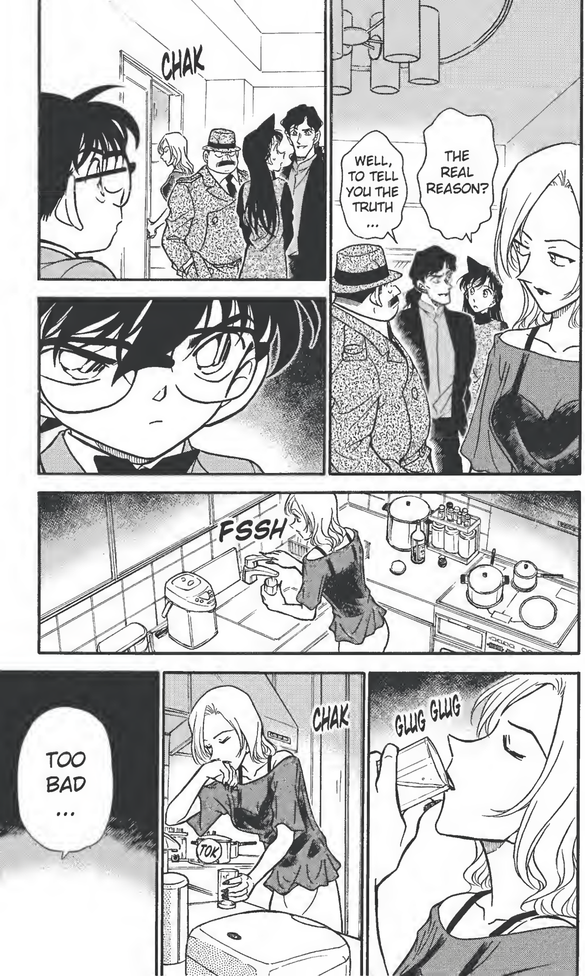
FILE 7:
THE IDOLS' MISUNDERSTANDING

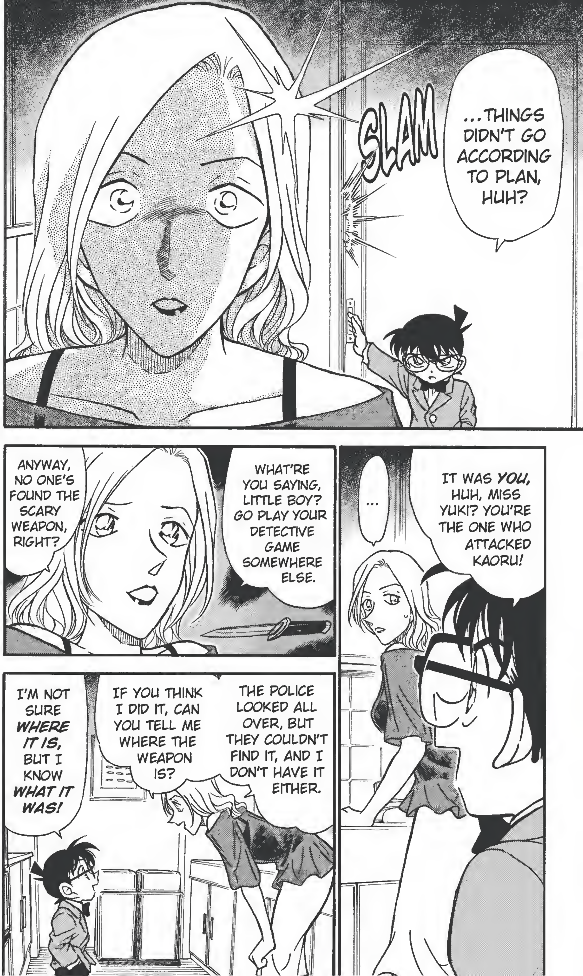

TO KAORU CONGRATULATIONS!
Don't forget to invite me to the wedding! Richard Moore
Be good to each other. Conan Edogawa
May you have everlasting happiness. Rachel Moore
Tough luck. Terumi Hoshino
I'm really glad. Atshushi Makuma
Congratulations!! Yuki Takeda
I can't wait to see your first child! Yoko Okino

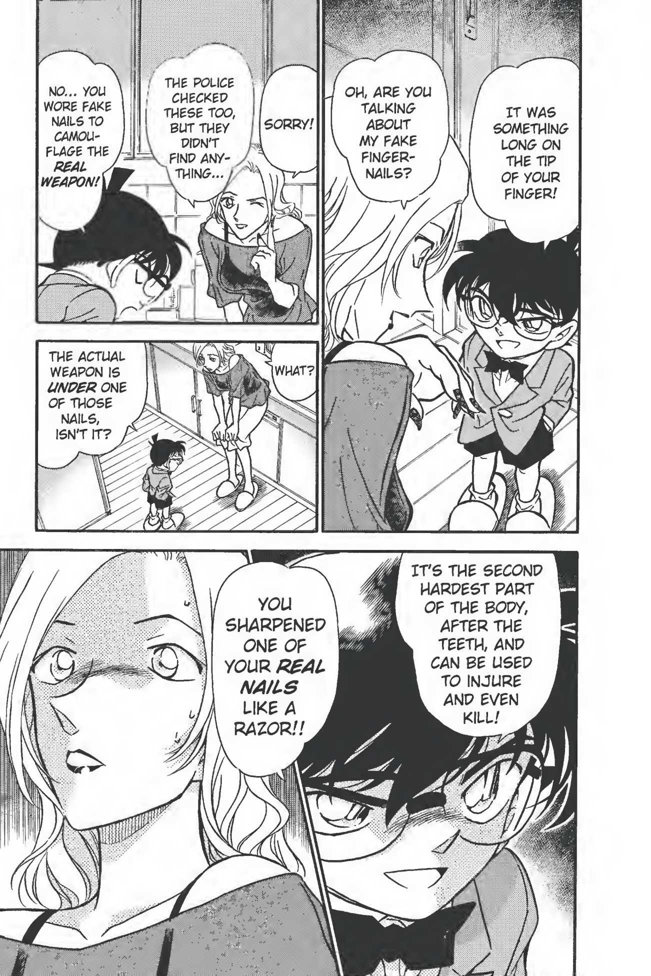

WELL...
...SINCE WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO FIND A WEAPON IN THE APARTMENT...
...THE ATTACKER MUST HAVE BEEN SOMEONE FROM OUTSIDE!
THE ATTACKER HAD SENT KAORU A BUGGED TEDDY BEAR...
...WHICH WAS HOW HE LEARNED ABOUT THE ENGAGEMENT PARTY AND KNEW WHEN SHE WAS GOING TO TAKE A BATH.
HE ENTERED THE APARTMENT THROUGH THE UNLOCKED FRONT DOOR...
...DRUGGED HER WHILE SHE WAS BATHING, SLIT HER THROAT WITH A KNIFE AND ESCAPED!
IT MUST HAVE BEEN AN UNHINGED FAN.
I JUST HOPE KAORU REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS AT THE HOSPITAL SO WE CAN CLOSE THIS CASE QUICKLY.
THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE SHE SAW HER ATTACKER...
BRRRNG

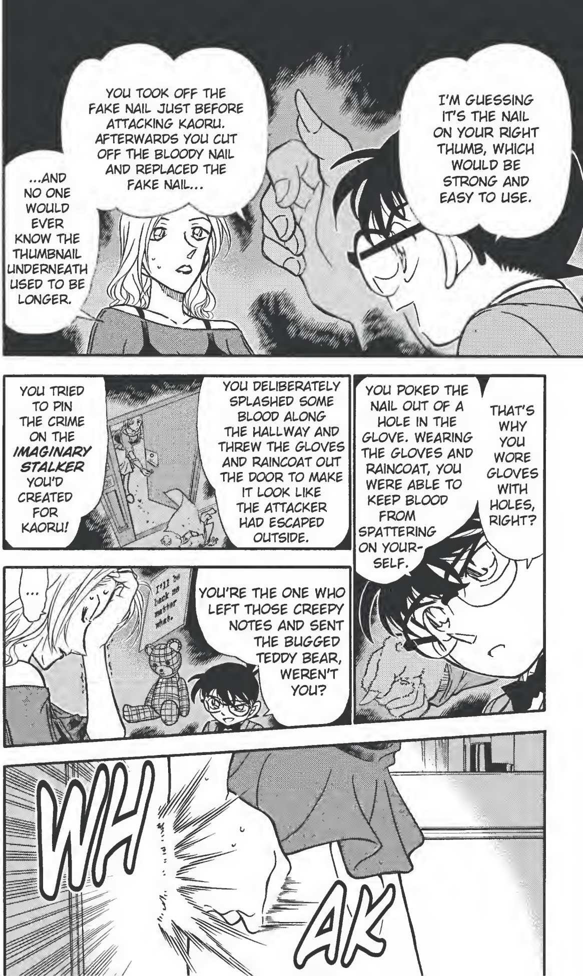

BRRRNG
BRRRNG
BRRRNG
BRRRNG
BRRRNG
BRRRNG
ER... HELLO?
CHK
YES, I'M A FRIEND OF KAORU KUSANO...
WHAT? KAORU...
Y... YOKO?
WHAT'S THE MATTER? IS IT THE HOSPITAL?
SOB SOB
HEY... DON'T TELL ME...
YOU'RE NOT SAYING KAORU IS...

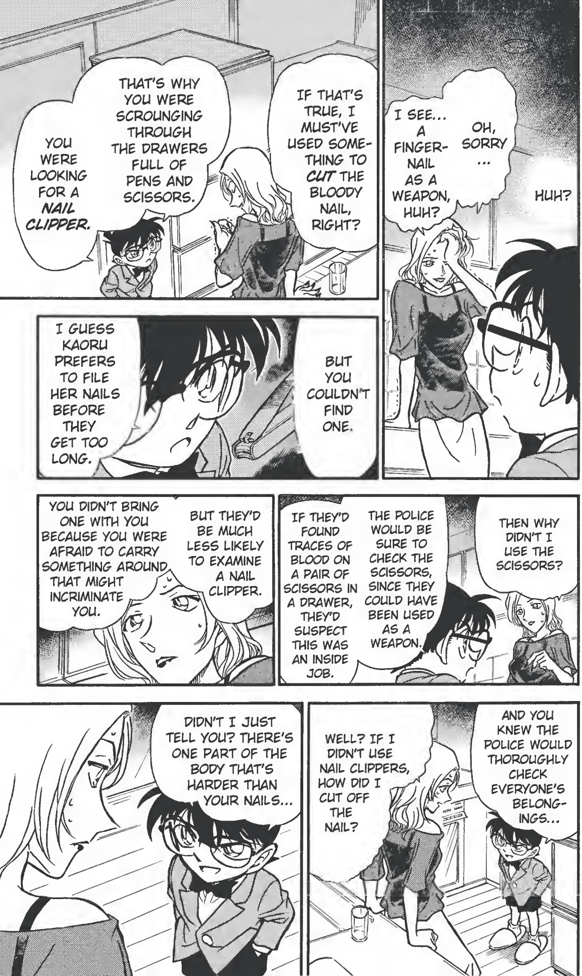

SHE'S FINE!
THE OPERATION WAS A SUCCESS.
CHK
THEY SAID SHE'LL WAKE UP IN A FEW HOURS!
AH! IS THAT SO?
WHAT A RELIEF!!
YOU SHOULD HURRY OVER TO SEE HER, MR. KENZAKI! YOU *ARE* HER FUTURE HUSBAND, AFTER ALL...
UM... YES...
THEN MAYBE I'LL GO LATER! I DON'T WANT TO CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR THE HOSPITAL, AND I DON'T WANT THE PRESS GETTING THE WRONG IDEA...
IS THAT A GOOD IDEA? THE HOSPITAL'S GOT TO BE *SWARMING* WITH PAPARAZZI.
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME YOU TOLD THEM THE *REAL* REASON FOR THIS ENGAGEMENT PARTY?
ER, I MEAN...
HUH?

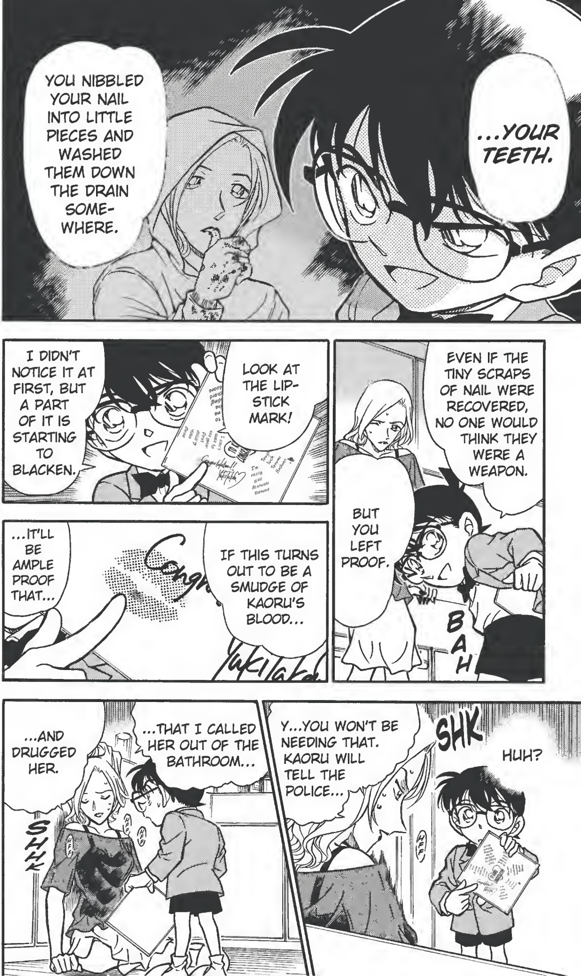

THE REAL REASON?
WELL, TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH ...
CHAK
FSSH
GLUG GLUG
CHAK
TOK
TOO BAD ...

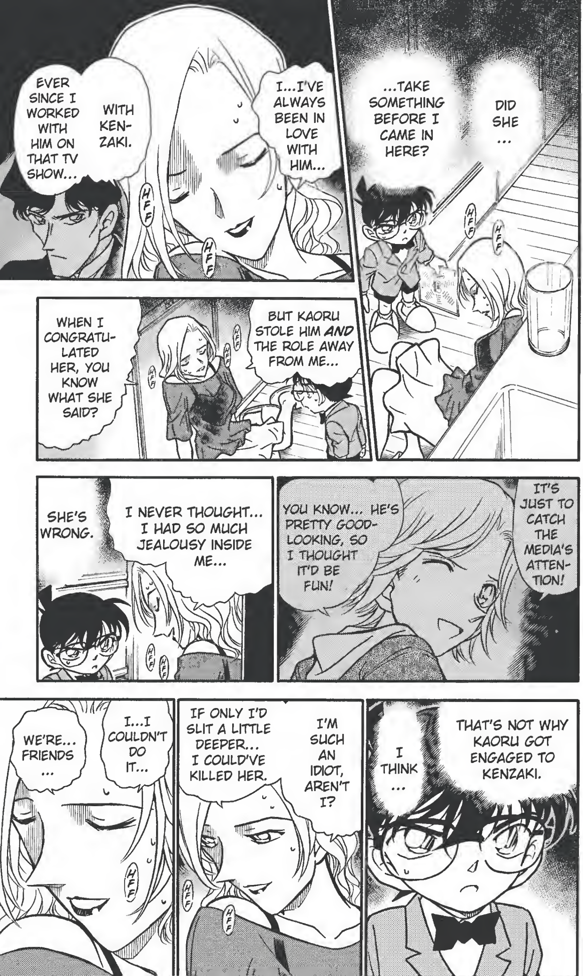

...THINGS DIDN'T GO ACCORDING TO PLAN, HUH?
SLAM
IT WAS *YOU*, HUH, MISS YUKI? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ATTACKED KAORU!
...
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING, LITTLE BOY? GO PLAY YOUR DETECTIVE GAME SOMEWHERE ELSE.
ANYWAY, NO ONE'S FOUND THE SCARY WEAPON, RIGHT?
THE POLICE LOOKED ALL OVER, BUT THEY COULDN'T FIND IT, AND I DON'T HAVE IT EITHER.
IF YOU THINK I DID IT, CAN YOU TELL ME WHERE THE WEAPON IS?
I'M NOT SURE ***WHERE IT IS***, BUT I KNOW ***WHAT IT WAS!***

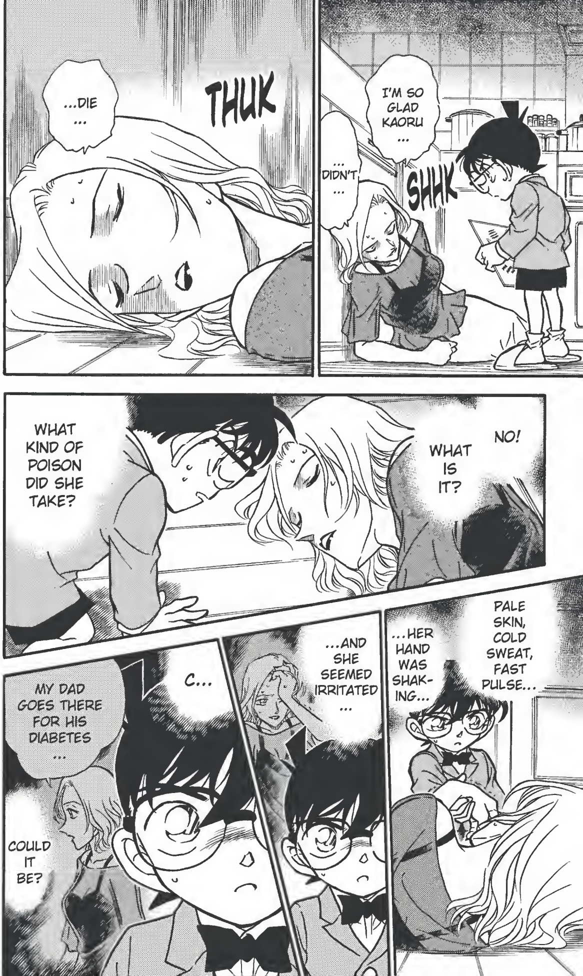

IT WAS SOMETHING LONG ON THE TIP OF YOUR FINGER!
OH, ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT MY FAKE FINGERNAILS?
SORRY!
THE POLICE CHECKED THESE TOO, BUT THEY DIDN'T FIND ANYTHING...
NO... YOU WORE FAKE NAILS TO CAMOUFLAGE THE *REAL WEAPON!*
WHAT?
THE ACTUAL WEAPON IS *UNDER* ONE OF THOSE NAILS, ISN'T IT?
IT'S THE SECOND HARDEST PART OF THE BODY, AFTER THE TEETH, AND CAN BE USED TO INJURE AND EVEN KILL!
YOU SHARPENED ONE OF YOUR *REAL NAILS* LIKE A RAZOR!!

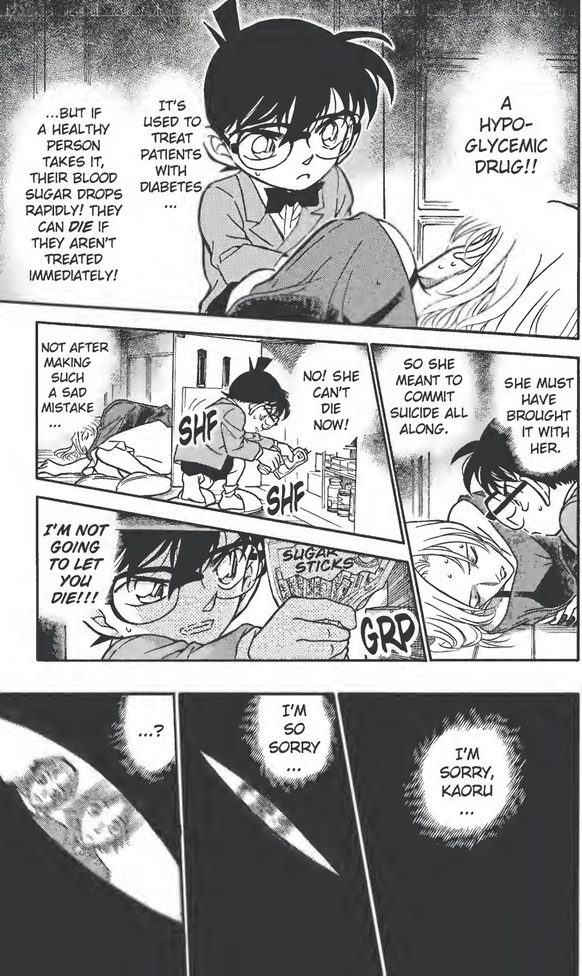

I'M GUESSING IT'S THE NAIL ON YOUR RIGHT THUMB, WHICH WOULD BE STRONG AND EASY TO USE.
YOU TOOK OFF THE FAKE NAIL JUST BEFORE ATTACKING KAORU. AFTERWARDS YOU CUT OFF THE BLOODY NAIL AND REPLACED THE FAKE NAIL...
...AND NO ONE WOULD EVER KNOW THE THUMBNAIL UNDERNEATH USED TO BE LONGER.
THAT'S WHY YOU WORE GLOVES WITH HOLES, RIGHT?
YOU POKED THE NAIL OUT OF A HOLE IN THE GLOVE. WEARING THE GLOVES AND RAINCOAT, YOU WERE ABLE TO KEEP BLOOD FROM SPATTERING ON YOURSELF.
YOU DELIBERATELY SPLASHED SOME BLOOD ALONG THE HALLWAY AND THREW THE GLOVES AND RAINCOAT OUT THE DOOR TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE THE ATTACKER HAD ESCAPED OUTSIDE.
YOU TRIED TO PIN THE CRIME ON THE *IMAGINARY STALKER* YOU'D CREATED FOR KAORU!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO LEFT THOSE CREEPY NOTES AND SENT THE BUGGED TEDDY BEAR, WEREN'T YOU?
I'll be back no matter what.
...
WHAK

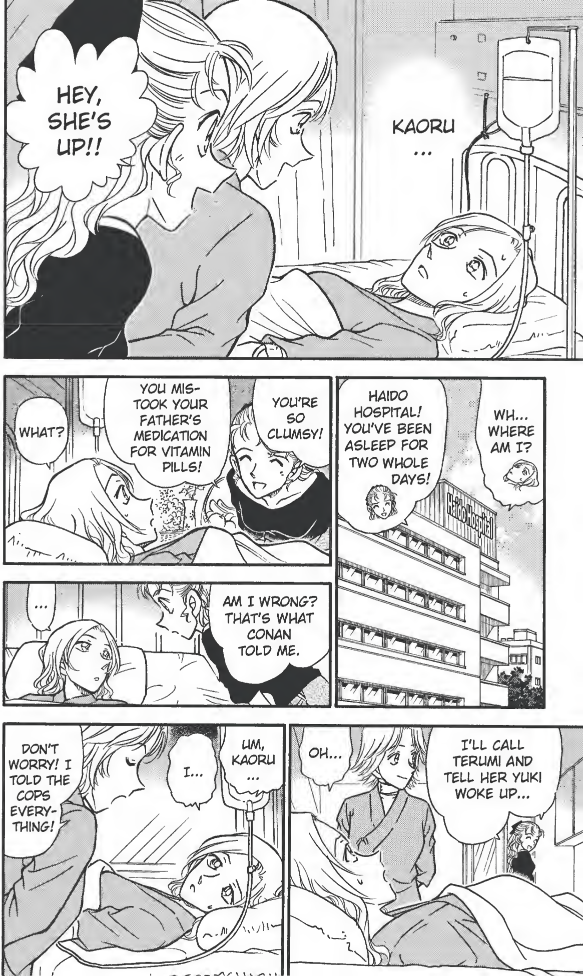

HUH?
OH, SORRY...
I SEE... A FINGERNAIL AS A WEAPON, HUH?
IF THAT'S TRUE, I MUST'VE USED SOMETHING TO *CUT* THE BLOODY NAIL, RIGHT?
THAT'S WHY YOU WERE SCROUNGING THROUGH THE DRAWERS FULL OF PENS AND SCISSORS.
YOU WERE LOOKING FOR A ***NAIL CLIPPER.***
BUT YOU COULDN'T FIND ONE.
I GUESS KAORU PREFERS TO FILE HER NAILS BEFORE THEY GET TOO LONG.
THEN WHY DIDN'T I USE THE SCISSORS?
THE POLICE WOULD BE SURE TO CHECK THE SCISSORS, SINCE THEY COULD HAVE BEEN USED AS A WEAPON.
IF THEY'D FOUND TRACES OF BLOOD ON A PAIR OF SCISSORS IN A DRAWER, THEY'D SUSPECT THIS WAS AN INSIDE JOB.
BUT THEY'D BE MUCH LESS LIKELY TO EXAMINE A NAIL CLIPPER.
YOU DIDN'T BRING ONE WITH YOU BECAUSE YOU WERE AFRAID TO CARRY SOMETHING AROUND THAT MIGHT INCRIMINATE YOU.
AND YOU KNEW THE POLICE WOULD THOROUGHLY CHECK EVERYONE'S BELONGINGS...
WELL? IF I DIDN'T USE NAIL CLIPPERS, HOW DID I CUT OFF THE NAIL?
DIDN'T I JUST TELL YOU? THERE'S ONE PART OF THE BODY THAT'S HARDER THAN YOUR NAILS...

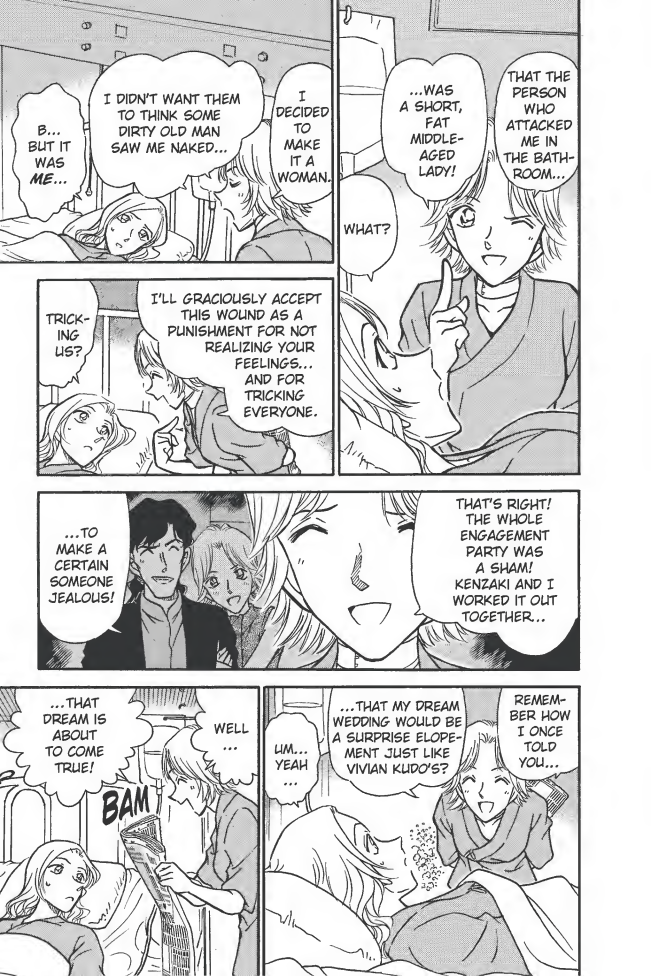

...YOUR TEETH.
YOU NIBBLED YOUR NAIL INTO LITTLE PIECES AND WASHED THEM DOWN THE DRAIN SOMEWHERE.
EVEN IF THE TINY SCRAPS OF NAIL WERE RECOVERED, NO ONE WOULD THINK THEY WERE A WEAPON.
BUT YOU LEFT PROOF.
BAH
LOOK AT THE LIPSTICK MARK!
I DIDN'T NOTICE IT AT FIRST, BUT A PART OF IT IS STARTING TO BLACKEN.
IF THIS TURNS OUT TO BE A SMUDGE OF KAORU'S BLOOD...
...IT'LL BE AMPLE PROOF THAT...
SHK
HUH?
Y...YOU WON'T BE NEEDING THAT. KAORU WILL TELL THE POLICE...
HEH
...THAT I CALLED HER OUT OF THE BATHROOM...
...AND DRUGGED HER.
HEH HEH
SHHK

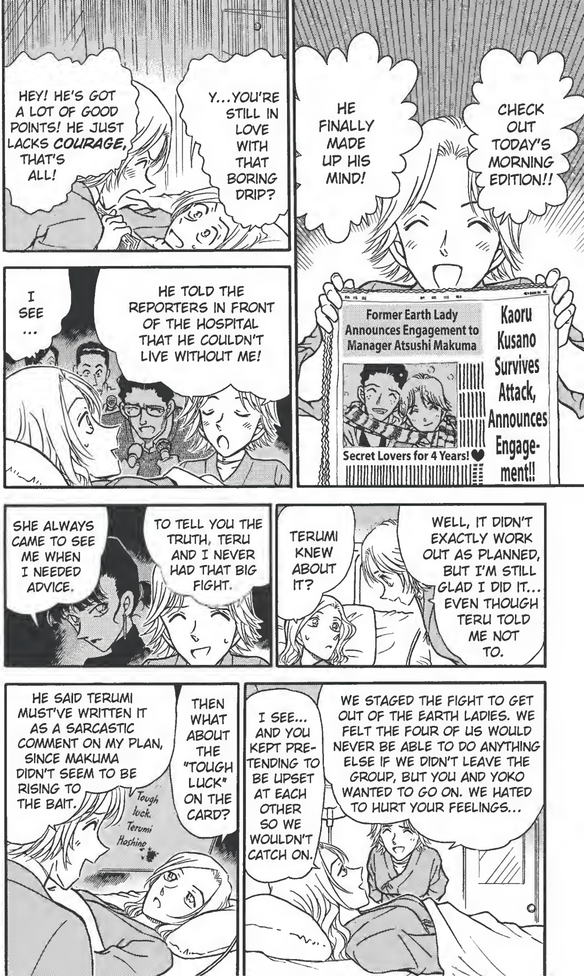

DID SHE ...
...TAKE SOMETHING BEFORE I CAME IN HERE?
HFF
HFF
I...I'VE ALWAYS BEEN IN LOVE WITH HIM...
WITH KEN-ZAKI.
EVER SINCE I WORKED WITH HIM ON THAT TV SHOW...
HFF
HFF
BUT KAORU STOLE HIM *AND* THE ROLE AWAY FROM ME...
WHEN I CONGRATULATED HER, YOU KNOW WHAT SHE SAID?
HFF
HFF
HFF
IT'S JUST TO CATCH THE MEDIA'S ATTENTION!
YOU KNOW... HE'S PRETTY GOOD-LOOKING, SO I THOUGHT IT'D BE FUN!
I NEVER THOUGHT... I HAD SO MUCH JEALOUSY INSIDE ME...
SHE'S WRONG.
HFF
HFF
THAT'S NOT WHY KAORU GOT ENGAGED TO KENZAKI.
I THINK ...
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT, AREN'T I?
IF ONLY I'D SLIT A LITTLE DEEPER... I COULD'VE KILLED HER.
HFF
HFF
I...I COULDN'T DO IT...
WE'RE... FRIENDS ...
HFF

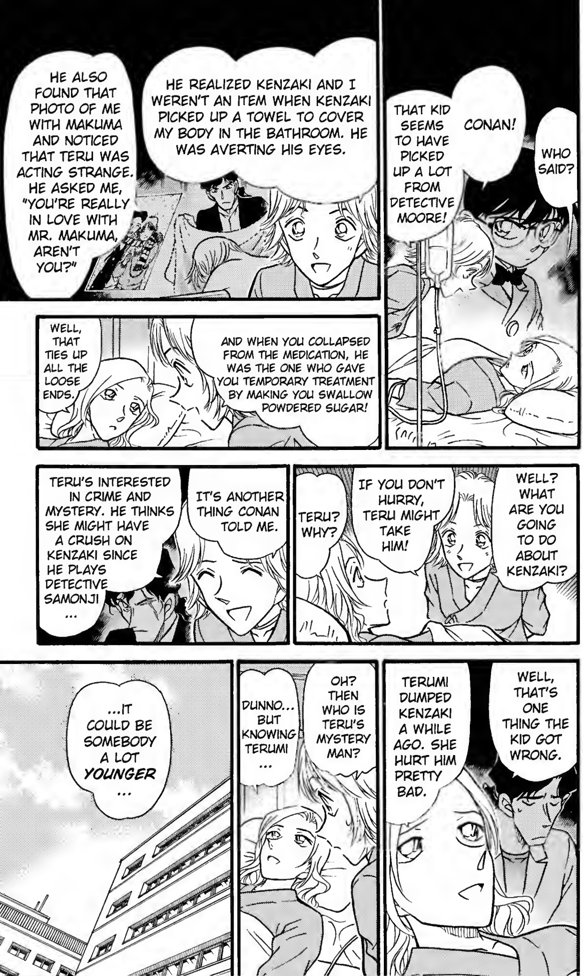

I'M SO GLAD KAORU ...
... DIDN'T ...
SHHK
THUK
...DIE ...
NO!
WHAT IS IT?
WHAT KIND OF POISON DID SHE TAKE?
PALE SKIN, COLD SWEAT, FAST PULSE...
...HER HAND WAS SHAKING...
...AND SHE SEEMED IRRITATED ...
C...
MY DAD GOES THERE FOR HIS DIABETES ...
COULD IT BE?

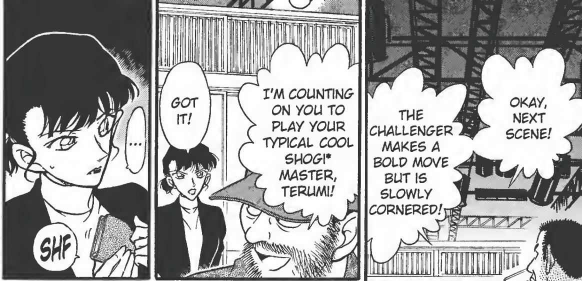

A HYPO-GLYCEMIC DRUG!!
IT'S USED TO TREAT PATIENTS WITH DIABETES ...
...BUT IF A HEALTHY PERSON TAKES IT, THEIR BLOOD SUGAR DROPS RAPIDLY! THEY CAN *DIE* IF THEY AREN'T TREATED IMMEDIATELY!
SHE MUST HAVE BROUGHT IT WITH HER.
SO SHE MEANT TO COMMIT SUICIDE ALL ALONG.
NO! SHE CAN'T DIE NOW!
NOT AFTER MAKING SUCH A SAD MISTAKE ...
SHF
SHF
SUGAR STICKS
GRP
I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU DIE!!!
I'M SORRY, KAORU ...
I'M SO SORRY ...
...?


KAORU ...
HEY, SHE'S UP!!
WH... WHERE AM I?
HAIDO HOSPITAL! YOU'VE BEEN ASLEEP FOR TWO WHOLE DAYS!
Haido Hospital
YOU'RE SO CLUMSY!
YOU MISTOOK YOUR FATHER'S MEDICATION FOR VITAMIN PILLS!
WHAT?
AM I WRONG? THAT'S WHAT CONAN TOLD ME.
...
I'LL CALL TERUMI AND TELL HER YUKI WOKE UP...
OH...
UM, KAORU ...
I...
DON'T WORRY! I TOLD THE COPS EVERYTHING!

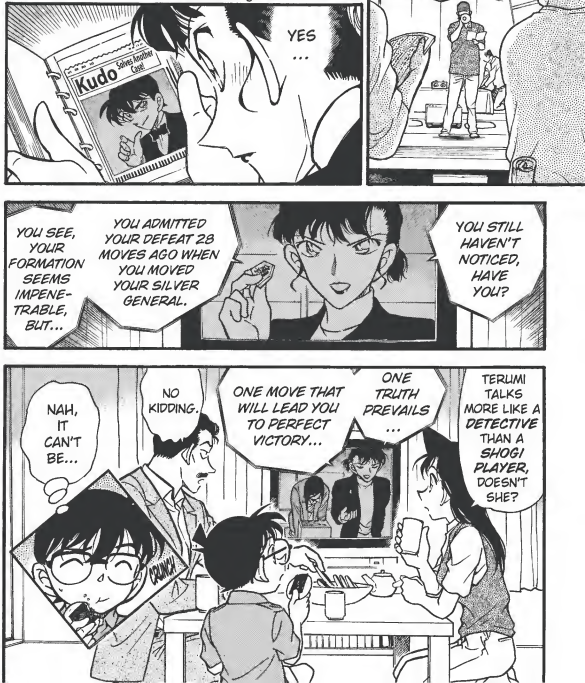

THAT THE PERSON WHO ATTACKED ME IN THE BATHROOM...
...WAS A SHORT, FAT MIDDLE-AGED LADY!
WHAT?
I DECIDED TO MAKE IT A WOMAN.
I DIDN'T WANT THEM TO THINK SOME DIRTY OLD MAN SAW ME NAKED...
B... BUT IT WAS *ME*...
I'LL GRACIOUSLY ACCEPT THIS WOUND AS A PUNISHMENT FOR NOT REALIZING YOUR FEELINGS... AND FOR TRICKING EVERYONE.
TRICKING US?
THAT'S RIGHT! THE WHOLE ENGAGEMENT PARTY WAS A SHAM! KENZAKI AND I WORKED IT OUT TOGETHER...
...TO MAKE A CERTAIN SOMEONE JEALOUS!
REMEMBER HOW I ONCE TOLD YOU...
...THAT MY DREAM WEDDING WOULD BE A SURPRISE ELOPEMENT JUST LIKE VIVIAN KUDO'S?
UM... YEAH...
WELL...
...THAT DREAM IS ABOUT TO COME TRUE!
BAM


CHECK OUT TODAY'S MORNING EDITION!!
HE FINALLY MADE UP HIS MIND!
Former Earth Lady Announces Engagement to Manager Atsushi Makuma
Kaoru Kusano Survives Attack, Announces Engagement!!
Secret Lovers for 4 Years! ♥
Y…YOU'RE STILL IN LOVE WITH THAT BORING DRIP?
HEY! HE'S GOT A LOT OF GOOD POINTS! HE JUST LACKS COURAGE, THAT'S ALL!
HE TOLD THE REPORTERS IN FRONT OF THE HOSPITAL THAT HE COULDN'T LIVE WITHOUT ME!
I SEE…
WELL, IT DIDN'T EXACTLY WORK OUT AS PLANNED, BUT I'M STILL GLAD I DID IT… EVEN THOUGH TERU TOLD ME NOT TO.
TERUMI KNEW ABOUT IT?
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, TERU AND I NEVER HAD THAT BIG FIGHT.
SHE ALWAYS CAME TO SEE ME WHEN I NEEDED ADVICE.
WE STAGED THE FIGHT TO GET OUT OF THE EARTH LADIES. WE FELT THE FOUR OF US WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING ELSE IF WE DIDN'T LEAVE THE GROUP, BUT YOU AND YOKO WANTED TO GO ON. WE HATED TO HURT YOUR FEELINGS…
I SEE… AND YOU KEPT PRETENDING TO BE UPSET AT EACH OTHER SO WE WOULDN'T CATCH ON.
THEN WHAT ABOUT THE "TOUGH LUCK" ON THE CARD?
HE SAID TERUMI MUST'VE WRITTEN IT AS A SARCASTIC COMMENT ON MY PLAN, SINCE MAKUMA DIDN'T SEEM TO BE RISING TO THE BAIT.
Tough luck. Terumi Hoshino

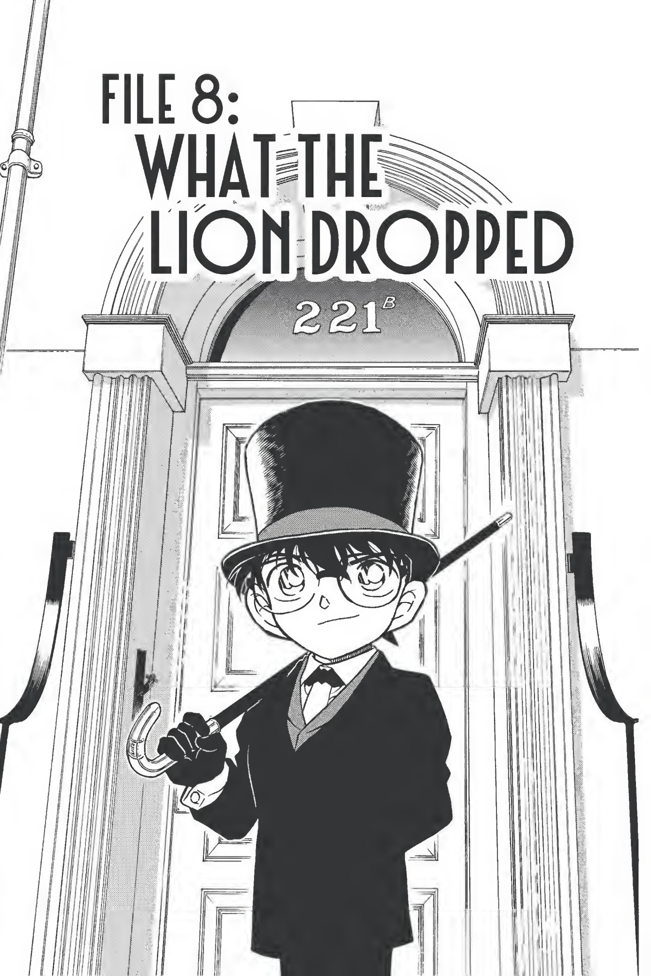

WHO SAID?
CONAN!
THAT KID SEEMS TO HAVE PICKED UP A LOT FROM DETECTIVE MOORE!
HE REALIZED KENZAKI AND I WEREN'T AN ITEM WHEN KENZAKI PICKED UP A TOWEL TO COVER MY BODY IN THE BATHROOM. HE WAS AVERTING HIS EYES.
HE ALSO FOUND THAT PHOTO OF ME WITH MAKUMA AND NOTICED THAT TERU WAS ACTING STRANGE. HE ASKED ME, "YOU'RE REALLY IN LOVE WITH MR. MAKUMA, AREN'T YOU?"
AND WHEN YOU COLLAPSED FROM THE MEDICATION, HE WAS THE ONE WHO GAVE YOU TEMPORARY TREATMENT BY MAKING YOU SWALLOW POWDERED SUGAR!
WELL, THAT TIES UP ALL THE LOOSE ENDS.
WELL? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT KENZAKI?
IF YOU DON'T HURRY, TERU MIGHT TAKE HIM!
TERU? WHY?
IT'S ANOTHER THING CONAN TOLD ME.
TERU'S INTERESTED IN CRIME AND MYSTERY. HE THINKS SHE MIGHT HAVE A CRUSH ON KENZAKI SINCE HE PLAYS DETECTIVE SAMONJI ...
WELL, THAT'S ONE THING THE KID GOT WRONG.
TERUMI DUMPED KENZAKI A WHILE AGO. SHE HURT HIM PRETTY BAD.
OH? THEN WHO IS TERU'S MYSTERY MAN?
DUNNO... BUT KNOWING TERUMI ...
...IT COULD BE SOMEBODY A LOT *YOUNGER* ...

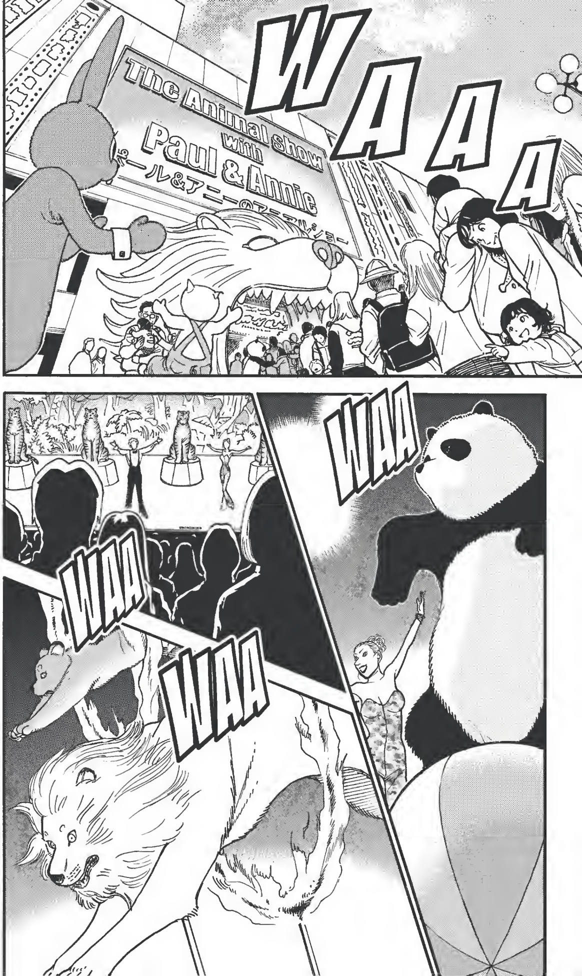

OKAY, NEXT SCENE!
THE CHALLENGER MAKES A BOLD MOVE BUT IS SLOWLY CORNERED!
I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO PLAY YOUR TYPICAL COOL SHOGI* MASTER, TERUMI!
GOT IT!
...
SHF

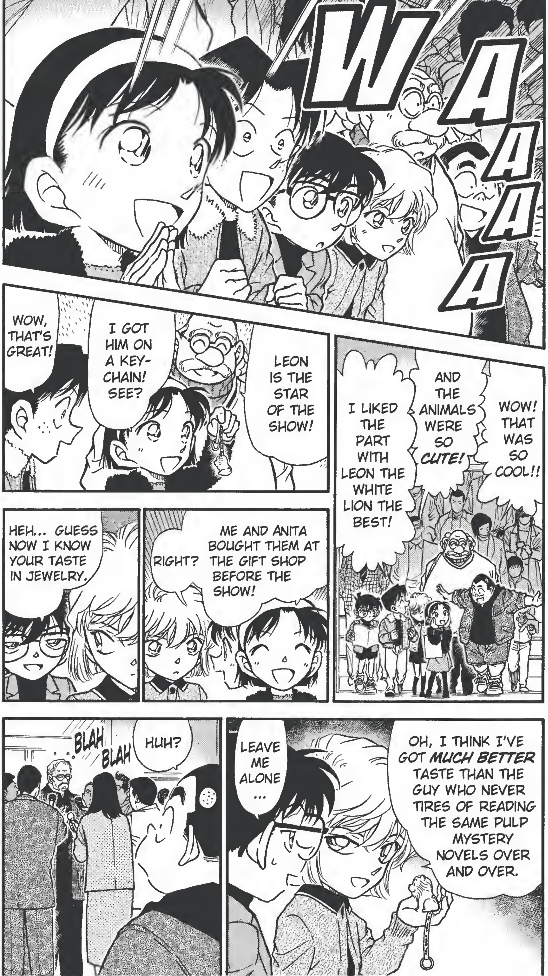
*An Asian board game similar to chess.

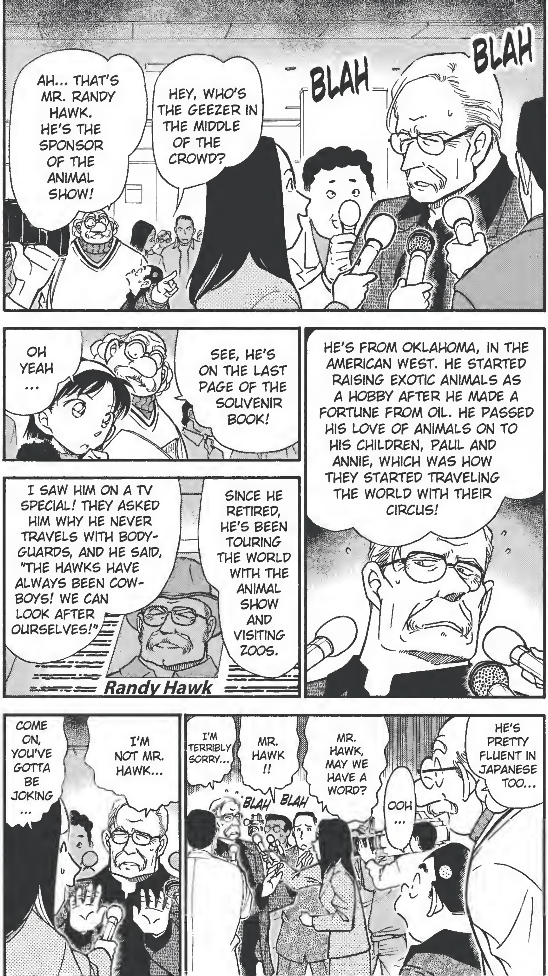

YES ...
Kudo
Solves Another Case!
YOU STILL HAVEN'T NOTICED, HAVE YOU?
YOU ADMITTED YOUR DEFEAT 28 MOVES AGO WHEN YOU MOVED YOUR SILVER GENERAL.
YOU SEE, YOUR FORMATION SEEMS IMPENETRABLE, BUT...
TERUMI TALKS MORE LIKE A DETECTIVE THAN A SHOGI PLAYER, DOESN'T SHE?
ONE TRUTH PREVAILS ...
ONE MOVE THAT WILL LEAD YOU TO PERFECT VICTORY...
NO KIDDING.
NAH, IT CAN'T BE...
CRUNCH

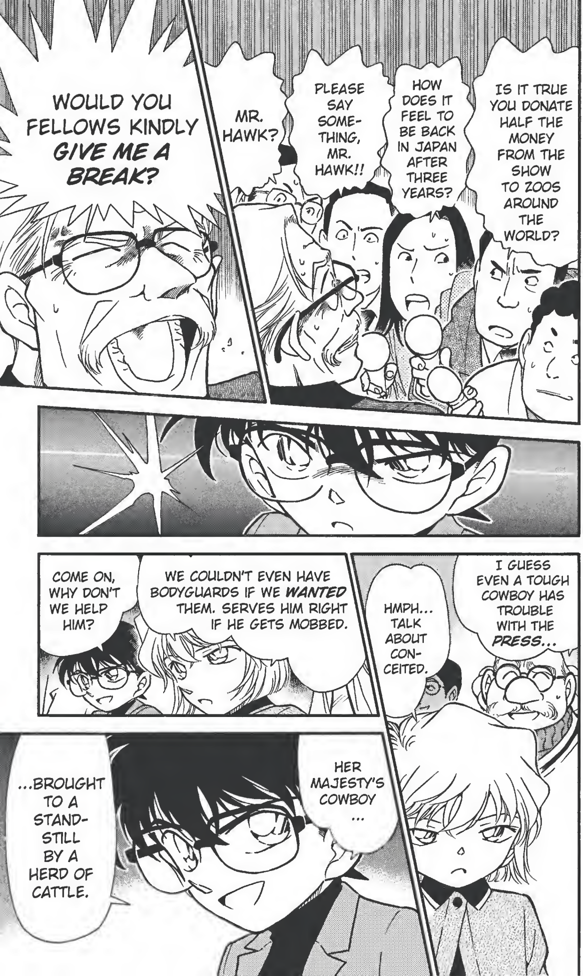
FILE 8:
WHAT THE LION DROPPED

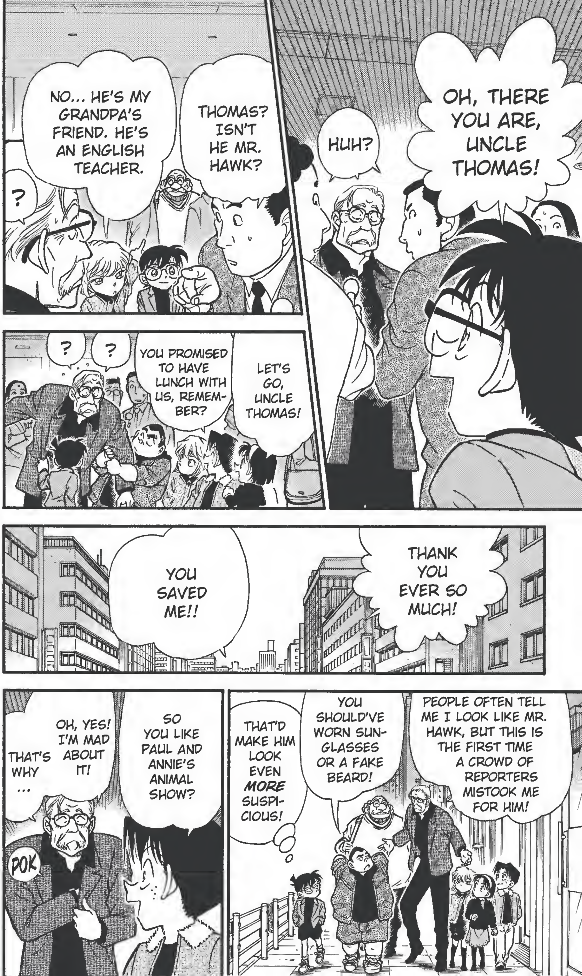


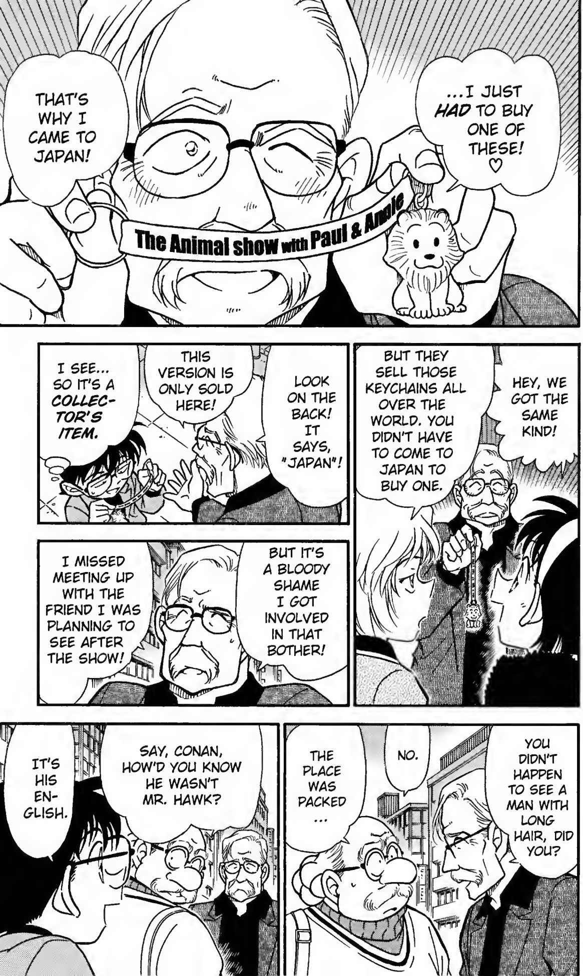

WAAAA
The Animal show with Paul & Annie
ポール&アニーのアニマルショー
WAA
WAA
WAA

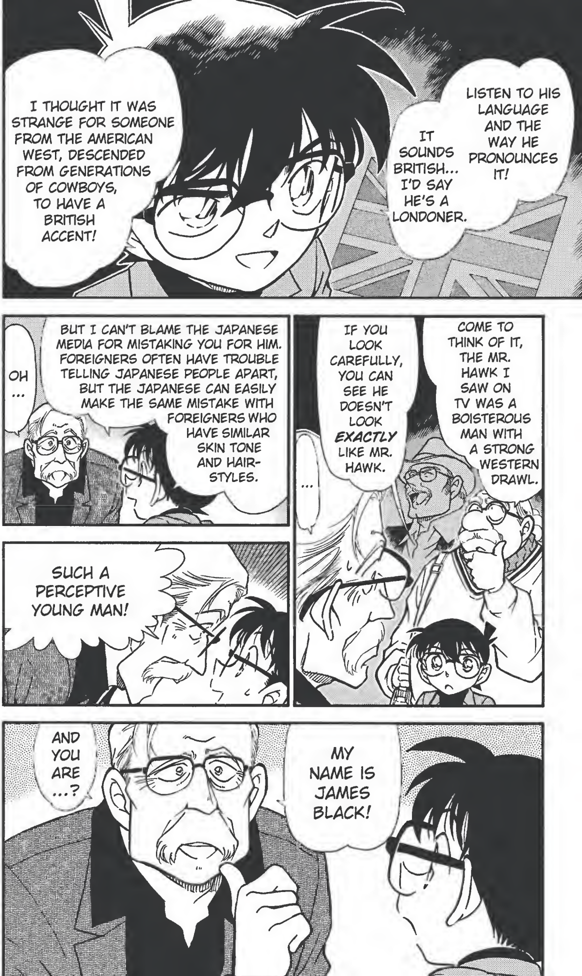

WAAAAA
WOW! THAT WAS SO COOL!!
AND THE ANIMALS WERE SO *CUTE!*
I LIKED THE PART WITH LEON THE WHITE LION THE BEST!
LEON IS THE STAR OF THE SHOW!
I GOT HIM ON A KEY-CHAIN! SEE?
WOW, THAT'S GREAT!
ME AND ANITA BOUGHT THEM AT THE GIFT SHOP BEFORE THE SHOW!
RIGHT?
HEH... GUESS NOW I KNOW YOUR TASTE IN JEWELRY.
OH, I THINK I'VE GOT *MUCH BETTER* TASTE THAN THE GUY WHO NEVER TIRES OF READING THE SAME PULP MYSTERY NOVELS OVER AND OVER.
LEAVE ME ALONE...
HUH?
BLAH BLAH

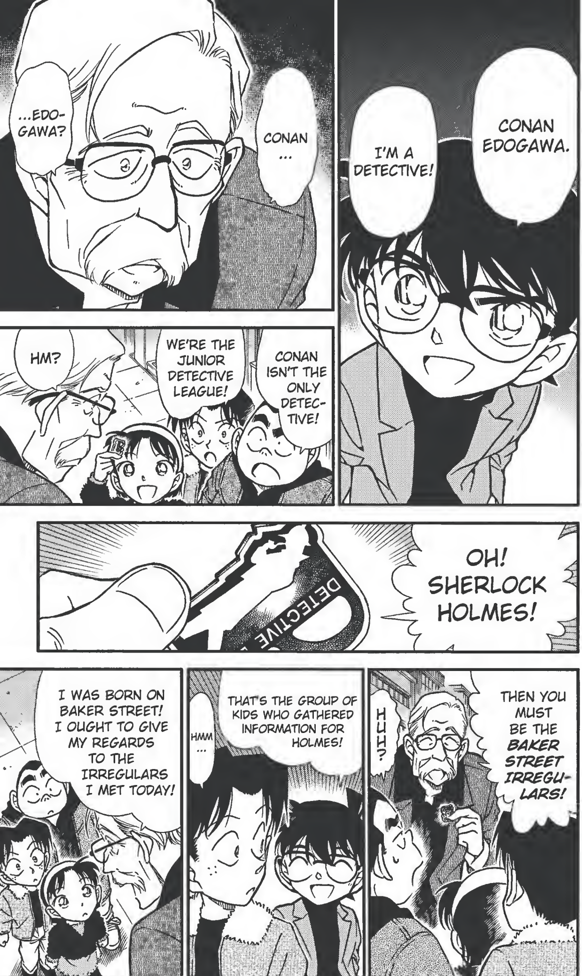

BLAH
BLAH
HEY, WHO'S THE GEEZER IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CROWD?
AH... THAT'S MR. RANDY HAWK. HE'S THE SPONSOR OF THE ANIMAL SHOW!
SEE, HE'S ON THE LAST PAGE OF THE SOUVENIR BOOK!
OH YEAH ...
HE'S FROM OKLAHOMA, IN THE AMERICAN WEST. HE STARTED RAISING EXOTIC ANIMALS AS A HOBBY AFTER HE MADE A FORTUNE FROM OIL. HE PASSED HIS LOVE OF ANIMALS ON TO HIS CHILDREN, PAUL AND ANNIE, WHICH WAS HOW THEY STARTED TRAVELING THE WORLD WITH THEIR CIRCUS!
SINCE HE RETIRED, HE'S BEEN TOURING THE WORLD WITH THE ANIMAL SHOW AND VISITING ZOOS.
I SAW HIM ON A TV SPECIAL! THEY ASKED HIM WHY HE NEVER TRAVELS WITH BODYGUARDS, AND HE SAID, "THE HAWKS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN COWBOYS! WE CAN LOOK AFTER OURSELVES!"
Randy Hawk
HE'S PRETTY FLUENT IN JAPANESE TOO...
OOH ...
MR. HAWK, MAY WE HAVE A WORD?
BLAH BLAH
MR. HAWK !!
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY...
I'M NOT MR. HAWK...
COME ON, YOU'VE GOTTA BE JOKING ...

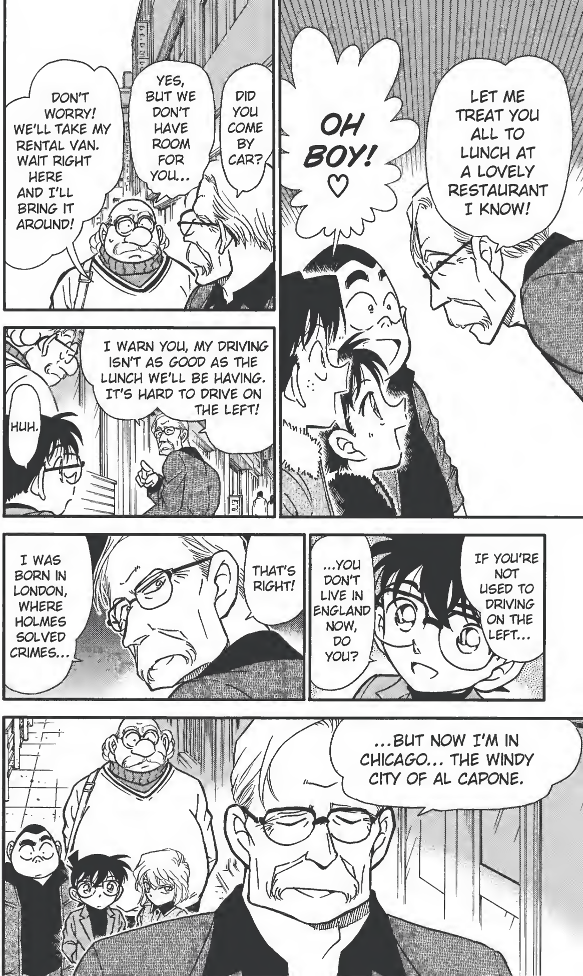

IS IT TRUE YOU DONATE HALF THE MONEY FROM THE SHOW TO ZOOS AROUND THE WORLD?
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE BACK IN JAPAN AFTER THREE YEARS?
PLEASE SAY SOMETHING, MR. HAWK!!
MR. HAWK?
WOULD YOU FELLOWS KINDLY *GIVE ME A BREAK?*
I GUESS EVEN A TOUGH COWBOY HAS TROUBLE WITH THE *PRESS*...
HMPH... TALK ABOUT CONCEITED.
WE COULDN'T EVEN HAVE BODYGUARDS IF WE *WANTED* THEM. SERVES HIM RIGHT IF HE GETS MOBBED.
COME ON, WHY DON'T WE HELP HIM?
HER MAJESTY'S COWBOY ...
...BROUGHT TO A STANDSTILL BY A HERD OF CATTLE.

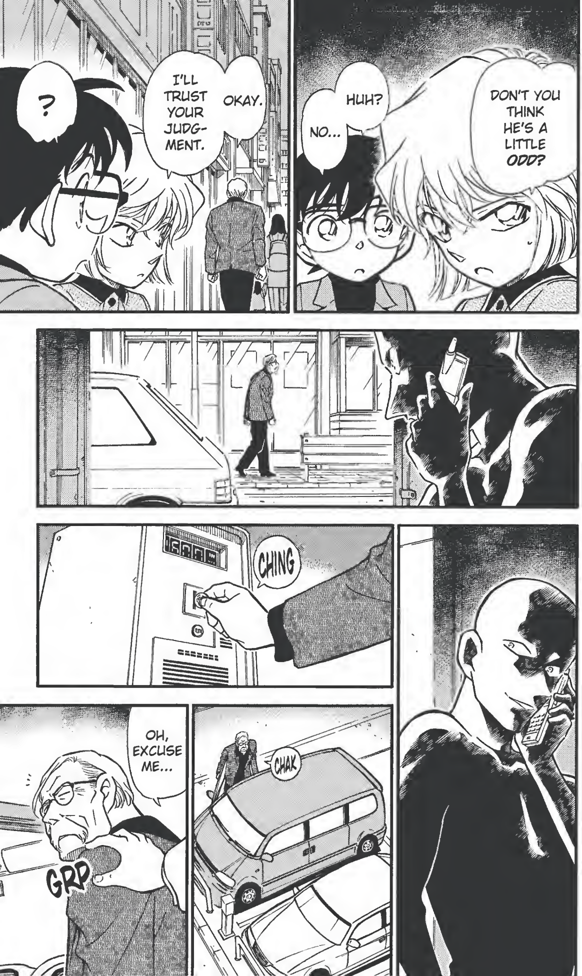

OH, THERE YOU ARE, UNCLE THOMAS!
HUH?
THOMAS? ISN'T HE MR. HAWK?
NO... HE'S MY GRANDPA'S FRIEND. HE'S AN ENGLISH TEACHER.
?
LET'S GO, UNCLE THOMAS!
YOU PROMISED TO HAVE LUNCH WITH US, REMEMBER?
?
?
THANK YOU EVER SO MUCH!
YOU SAVED ME!!
PEOPLE OFTEN TELL ME I LOOK LIKE MR. HAWK, BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME A CROWD OF REPORTERS MISTOOK ME FOR HIM!
YOU SHOULD'VE WORN SUNGLASSES OR A FAKE BEARD!
THAT'D MAKE HIM LOOK EVEN *MORE* SUSPICIOUS!
SO YOU LIKE PAUL AND ANNIE'S ANIMAL SHOW?
OH, YES! I'M MAD ABOUT IT!
THAT'S WHY ...
POK

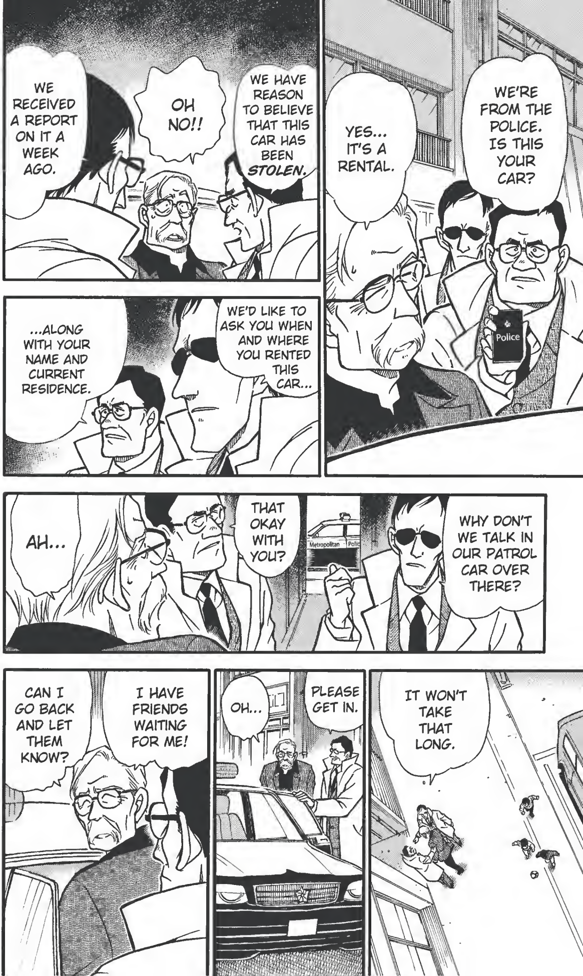

THAT'S WHY I CAME TO JAPAN!
...I JUST *HAD* TO BUY ONE OF THESE! ♡
The Animal show with Paul & Annie
THIS VERSION IS ONLY SOLD HERE!
LOOK ON THE BACK! IT SAYS, "JAPAN"!
I SEE... SO IT'S A *COLLECTOR'S ITEM.*
I MISSED MEETING UP WITH THE FRIEND I WAS PLANNING TO SEE AFTER THE SHOW!
BUT IT'S A BLOODY SHAME I GOT INVOLVED IN THAT BOTHER!
BUT THEY SELL THOSE KEYCHAINS ALL OVER THE WORLD. YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO COME TO JAPAN TO BUY ONE.
HEY, WE GOT THE SAME KIND!
SAY, CONAN, HOW'D YOU KNOW HE WASN'T MR. HAWK?
IT'S HIS ENGLISH.
YOU DIDN'T HAPPEN TO SEE A MAN WITH LONG HAIR, DID YOU?
NO.
THE PLACE WAS PACKED...

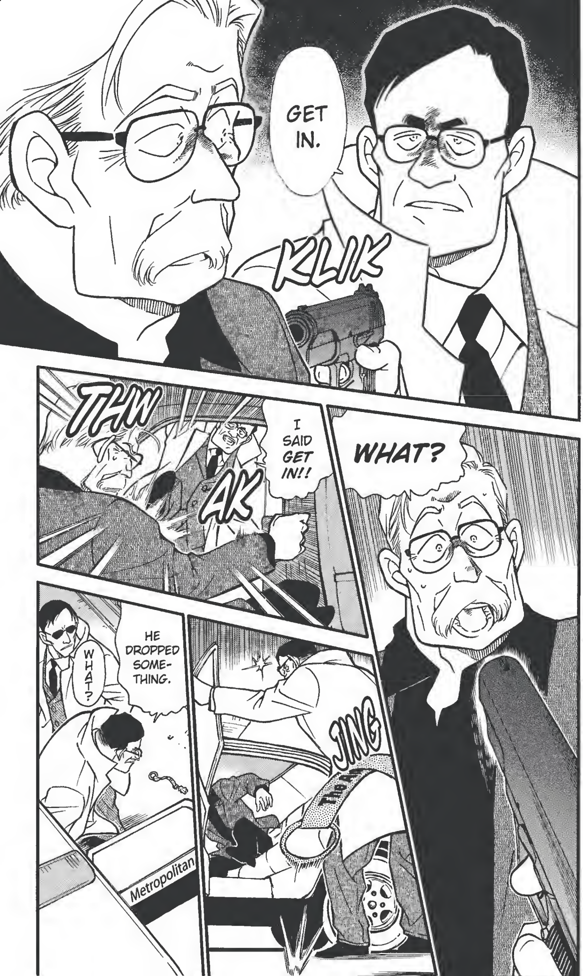

LISTEN TO HIS LANGUAGE AND THE WAY HE PRONOUNCES IT!
IT SOUNDS BRITISH... I'D SAY HE'S A LONDONER.
I THOUGHT IT WAS STRANGE FOR SOMEONE FROM THE AMERICAN WEST, DESCENDED FROM GENERATIONS OF COWBOYS, TO HAVE A BRITISH ACCENT!
COME TO THINK OF IT, THE MR. HAWK I SAW ON TV WAS A BOISTEROUS MAN WITH A STRONG WESTERN DRAWL.
IF YOU LOOK CAREFULLY, YOU CAN SEE HE DOESN'T LOOK *EXACTLY* LIKE MR. HAWK.
...
BUT I CAN'T BLAME THE JAPANESE MEDIA FOR MISTAKING YOU FOR HIM. FOREIGNERS OFTEN HAVE TROUBLE TELLING JAPANESE PEOPLE APART, BUT THE JAPANESE CAN EASILY MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE WITH FOREIGNERS WHO HAVE SIMILAR SKIN TONE AND HAIRSTYLES.
OH ...
SUCH A PERCEPTIVE YOUNG MAN!
MY NAME IS JAMES BLACK!
AND YOU ARE ...?

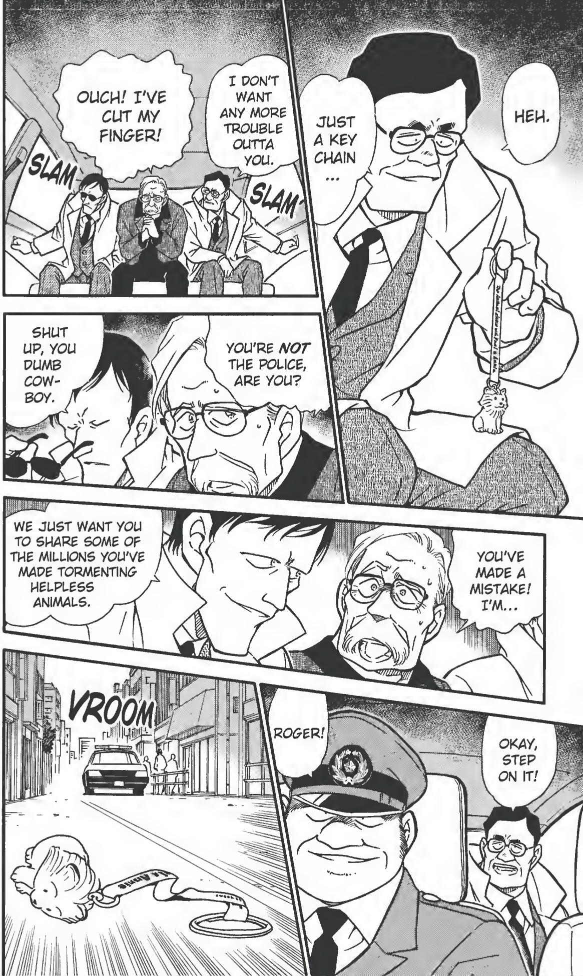

CONAN EDOGAWA.
I'M A DETECTIVE!
CONAN ...
...EDOGAWA?
CONAN ISN'T THE ONLY DETECTIVE!
WE'RE THE JUNIOR DETECTIVE LEAGUE!
HM?
OH! SHERLOCK HOLMES!
DETECTIVE
THEN YOU MUST BE THE *BAKER STREET IRREGULARS!*
HUH?
THAT'S THE GROUP OF KIDS WHO GATHERED INFORMATION FOR HOLMES!
HMM ...
I WAS BORN ON BAKER STREET! I OUGHT TO GIVE MY REGARDS TO THE IRREGULARS I MET TODAY!

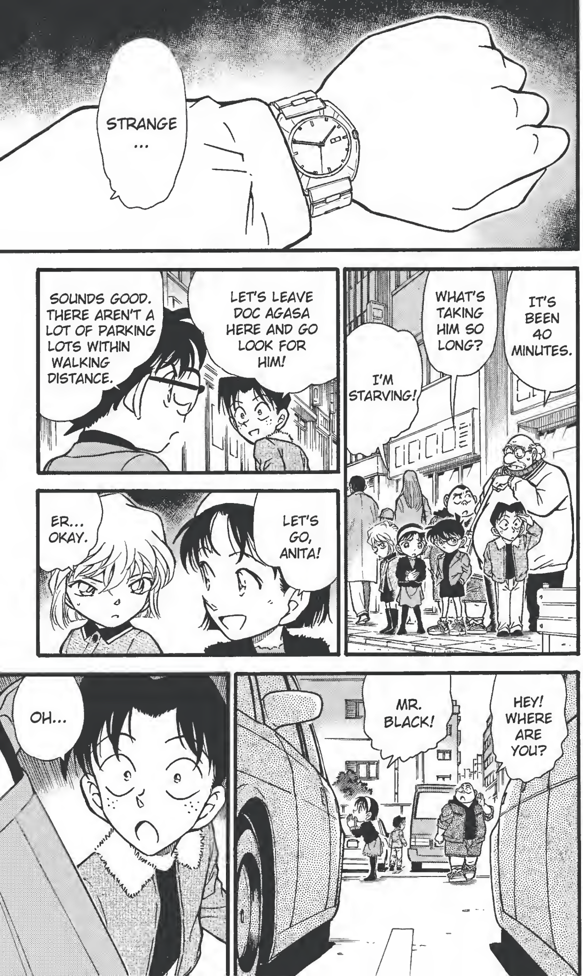

LET ME TREAT YOU ALL TO LUNCH AT A LOVELY RESTAURANT I KNOW!
OH BOY! ♡
DID YOU COME BY CAR?
YES, BUT WE DON'T HAVE ROOM FOR YOU...
DON'T WORRY! WE'LL TAKE MY RENTAL VAN. WAIT RIGHT HERE AND I'LL BRING IT AROUND!
I WARN YOU, MY DRIVING ISN'T AS GOOD AS THE LUNCH WE'LL BE HAVING. IT'S HARD TO DRIVE ON THE LEFT!
HUH.
IF YOU'RE NOT USED TO DRIVING ON THE LEFT...
...YOU DON'T LIVE IN ENGLAND NOW, DO YOU?
THAT'S RIGHT!
I WAS BORN IN LONDON, WHERE HOLMES SOLVED CRIMES...
...BUT NOW I'M IN CHICAGO... THE WINDY CITY OF AL CAPONE.

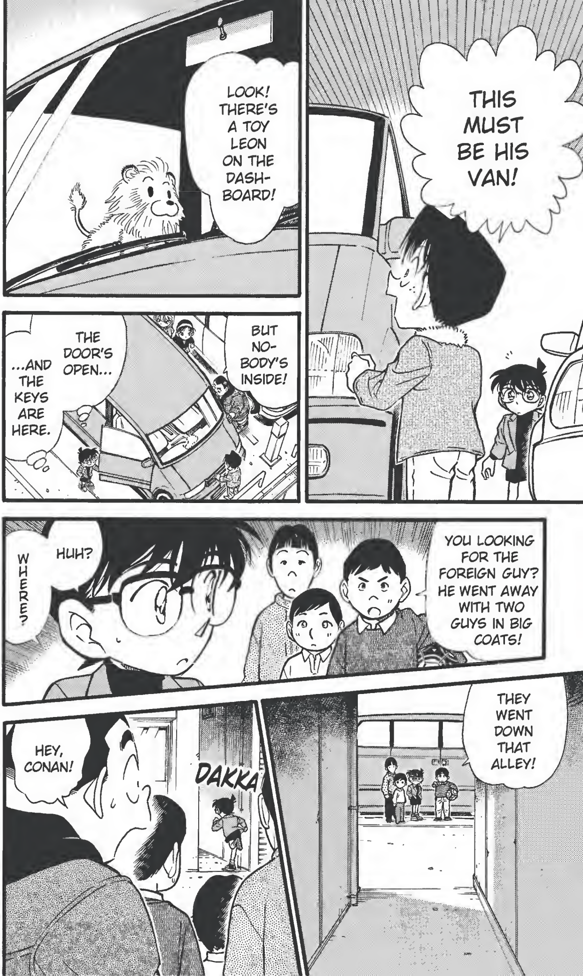

DON'T YOU THINK HE'S A LITTLE *ODD?*
HUH?
NO...
OKAY.
I'LL TRUST YOUR JUDGMENT.
?
CHING
CHAK
OH, EXCUSE ME...
GRP

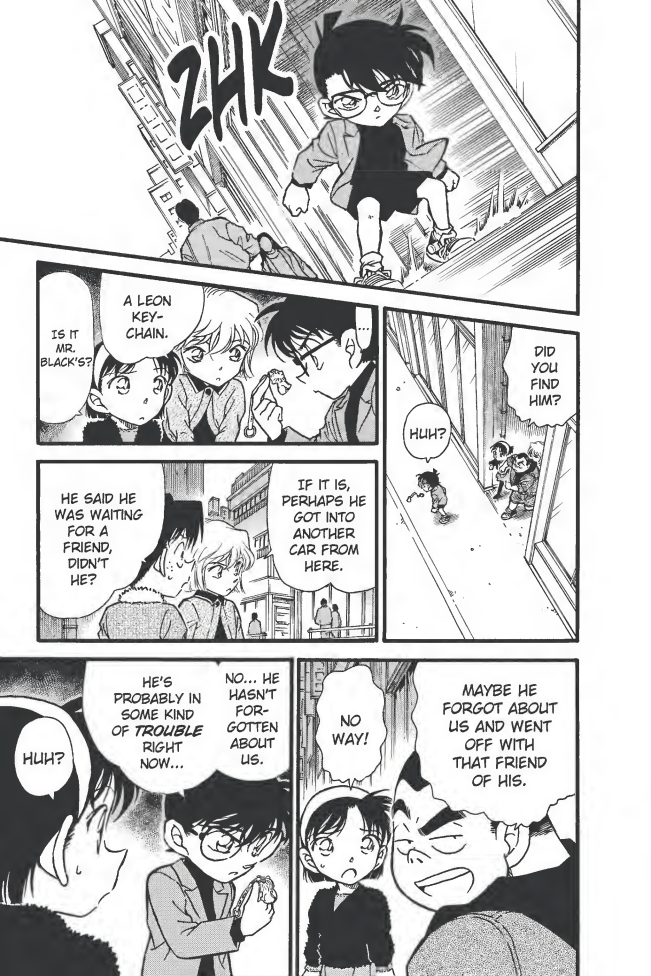

WE'RE FROM THE POLICE. IS THIS YOUR CAR?
Police
YES... IT'S A RENTAL.
WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THIS CAR HAS BEEN *STOLEN.*
OH NO!!
WE RECEIVED A REPORT ON IT A WEEK AGO.
WE'D LIKE TO ASK YOU WHEN AND WHERE YOU RENTED THIS CAR...
...ALONG WITH YOUR NAME AND CURRENT RESIDENCE.
WHY DON'T WE TALK IN OUR PATROL CAR OVER THERE?
Metropolitan Polic
THAT OKAY WITH YOU?
AH...
IT WON'T TAKE THAT LONG.
PLEASE GET IN.
OH...
I HAVE FRIENDS WAITING FOR ME!
CAN I GO BACK AND LET THEM KNOW?

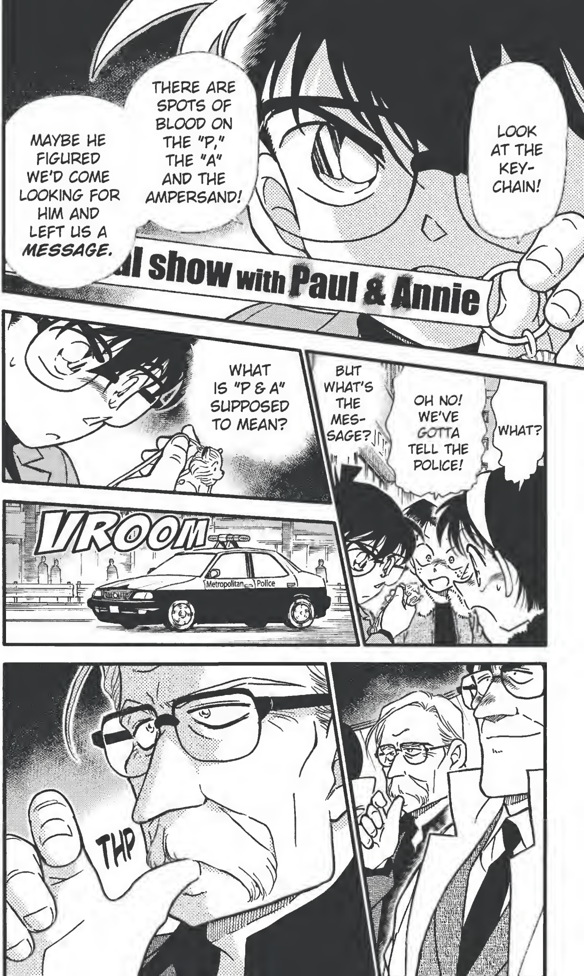

GET IN.
KLIK
WHAT?
I SAID GET IN!!
THWAK
JING
HE DROPPED SOMETHING.
WHAT?
Metropolitan


I DON'T WANT ANY MORE TROUBLE OUTTA YOU.
OUCH! I'VE CUT MY FINGER!
SLAM
SLAM
HEH.
JUST A KEY CHAIN ...
YOU'RE *NOT* THE POLICE, ARE YOU?
SHUT UP, YOU DUMB COW-BOY.
YOU'VE MADE A MISTAKE! I'M...
WE JUST WANT YOU TO SHARE SOME OF THE MILLIONS YOU'VE MADE TORMENTING HELPLESS ANIMALS.
OKAY, STEP ON IT!
ROGER!
VROOM


STRANGE ...
IT'S BEEN 40 MINUTES.
WHAT'S TAKING HIM SO LONG?
I'M STARVING!
LET'S LEAVE DOC AGASA HERE AND GO LOOK FOR HIM!
SOUNDS GOOD. THERE AREN'T A LOT OF PARKING LOTS WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE.
LET'S GO, ANITA!
ER... OKAY.
HEY! WHERE ARE YOU?
MR. BLACK!
OH...

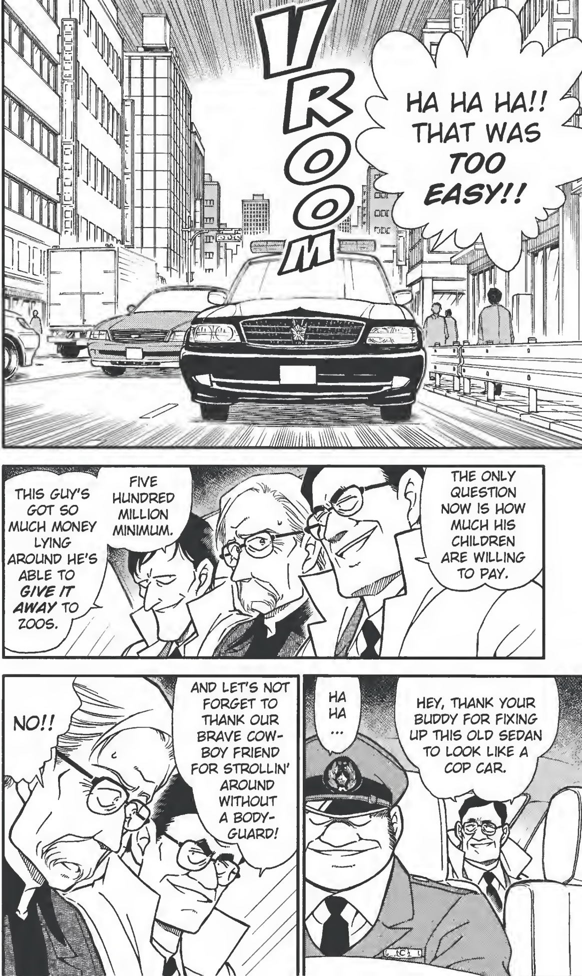

THIS MUST BE HIS VAN!
LOOK! THERE'S A TOY LEON ON THE DASHBOARD!
BUT NOBODY'S INSIDE!
THE DOOR'S OPEN...
...AND THE KEYS ARE HERE.
YOU LOOKING FOR THE FOREIGN GUY? HE WENT AWAY WITH TWO GUYS IN BIG COATS!
HUH?
WHERE?
THEY WENT DOWN THAT ALLEY!
DAKKA
HEY, CONAN!

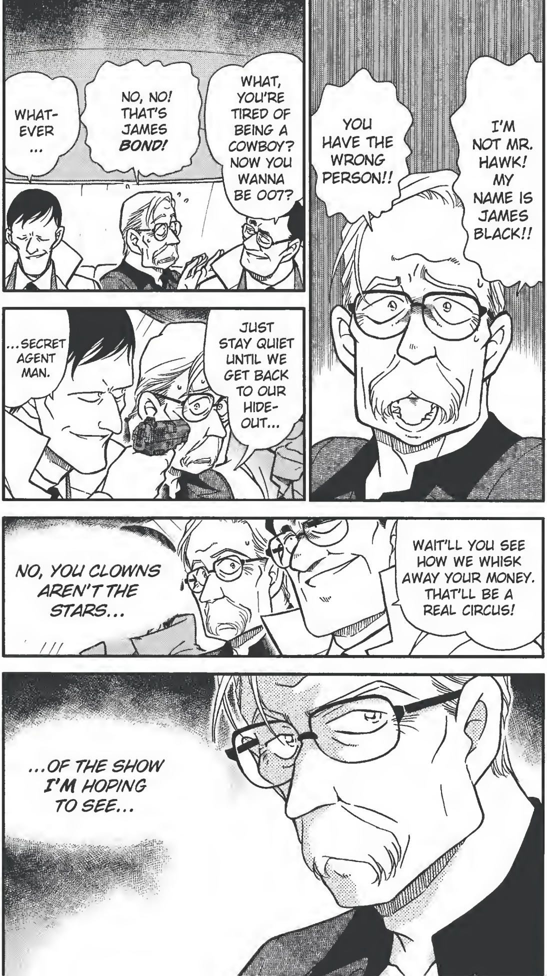

ZAK
DID YOU FIND HIM?
HUH?
...
A LEON KEYCHAIN.
IS IT MR. BLACK'S?
IF IT IS, PERHAPS HE GOT INTO ANOTHER CAR FROM HERE.
HE SAID HE WAS WAITING FOR A FRIEND, DIDN'T HE?
MAYBE HE FORGOT ABOUT US AND WENT OFF WITH THAT FRIEND OF HIS.
NO WAY!
NO... HE HASN'T FORGOTTEN ABOUT US.
HE'S PROBABLY IN SOME KIND OF *TROUBLE* RIGHT NOW...
HUH?

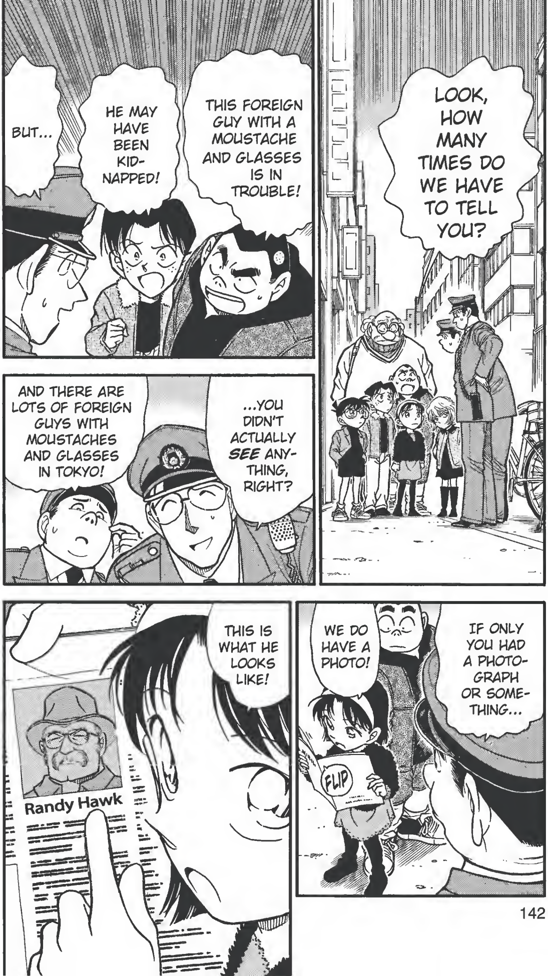

MAYBE HE FIGURED WE'D COME LOOKING FOR HIM AND LEFT US A *MESSAGE.*
THERE ARE SPOTS OF BLOOD ON THE "P," THE "A" AND THE AMPERSAND!
LOOK AT THE KEY-CHAIN!
al show with Paul & Annie
WHAT IS "P & A" SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
BUT WHAT'S THE MESSAGE?
OH NO! WE'VE GOTTA TELL THE POLICE!
WHAT?
VROOM
Metropolitan Police
THP

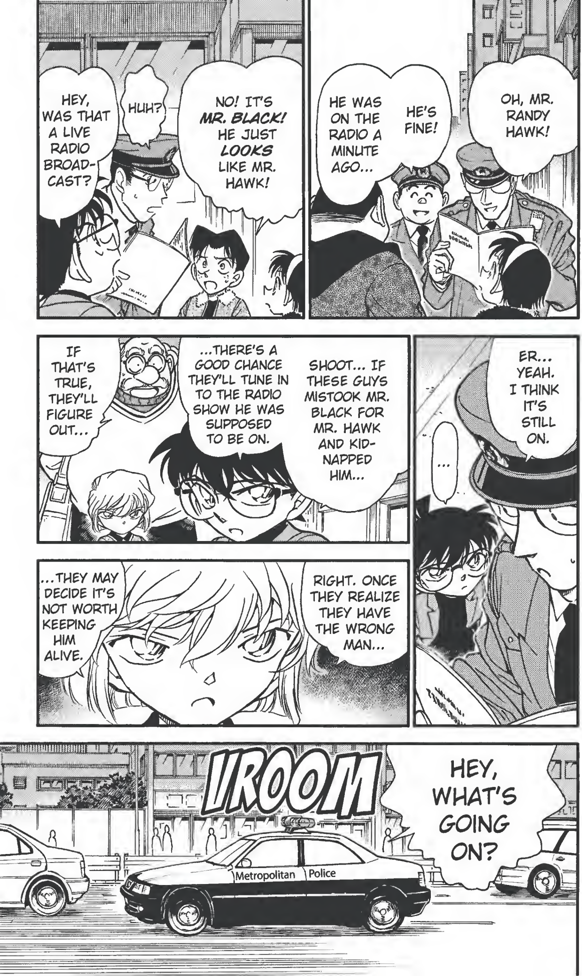
FILE 9: P&A

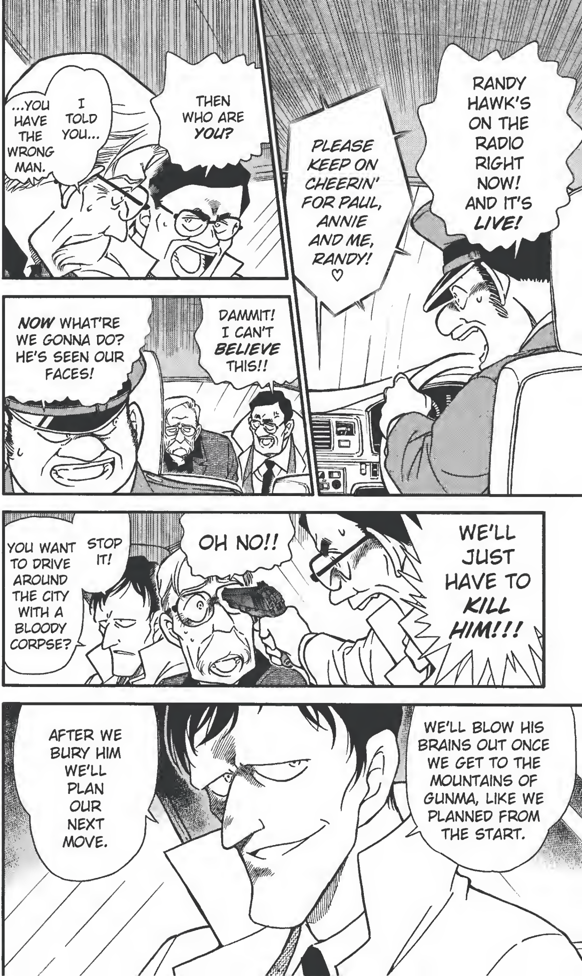
with Paul & Annie

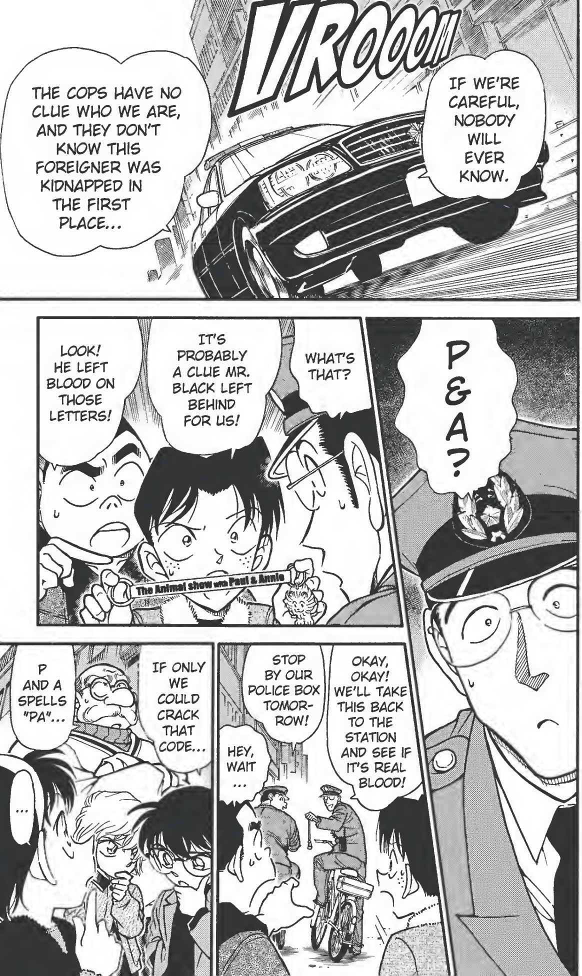

VROOM
HA HA HA!! THAT WAS *TOO EASY!!*
THE ONLY QUESTION NOW IS HOW MUCH HIS CHILDREN ARE WILLING TO PAY.
FIVE HUNDRED MILLION MINIMUM.
THIS GUY'S GOT SO MUCH MONEY LYING AROUND HE'S ABLE TO ***GIVE IT AWAY*** TO ZOOS.
HEY, THANK YOUR BUDDY FOR FIXING UP THIS OLD SEDAN TO LOOK LIKE A COP CAR.
HA HA ...
AND LET'S NOT FORGET TO THANK OUR BRAVE COWBOY FRIEND FOR STROLLIN' AROUND WITHOUT A BODYGUARD!
NO!!

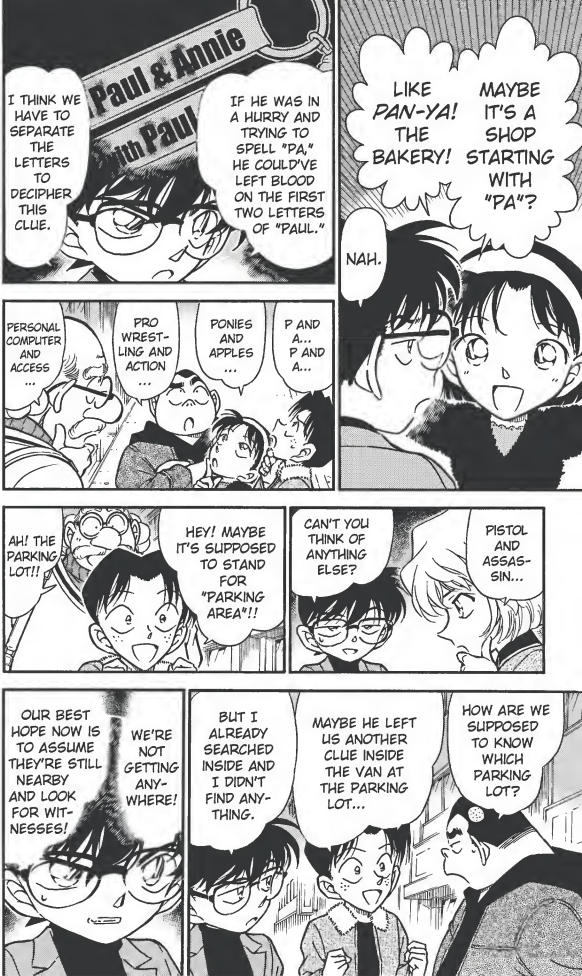

I'M NOT MR. HAWK! MY NAME IS JAMES BLACK!!
YOU HAVE THE WRONG PERSON!!
WHAT, YOU'RE TIRED OF BEING A COWBOY? NOW YOU WANNA BE 007?
NO, NO! THAT'S JAMES BOND!
WHATEVER...
JUST STAY QUIET UNTIL WE GET BACK TO OUR HIDEOUT...
...SECRET AGENT MAN.
WAIT'LL YOU SEE HOW WE WHISK AWAY YOUR MONEY. THAT'LL BE A REAL CIRCUS!
NO, YOU CLOWNS AREN'T THE STARS...
...OF THE SHOW I'M HOPING TO SEE...

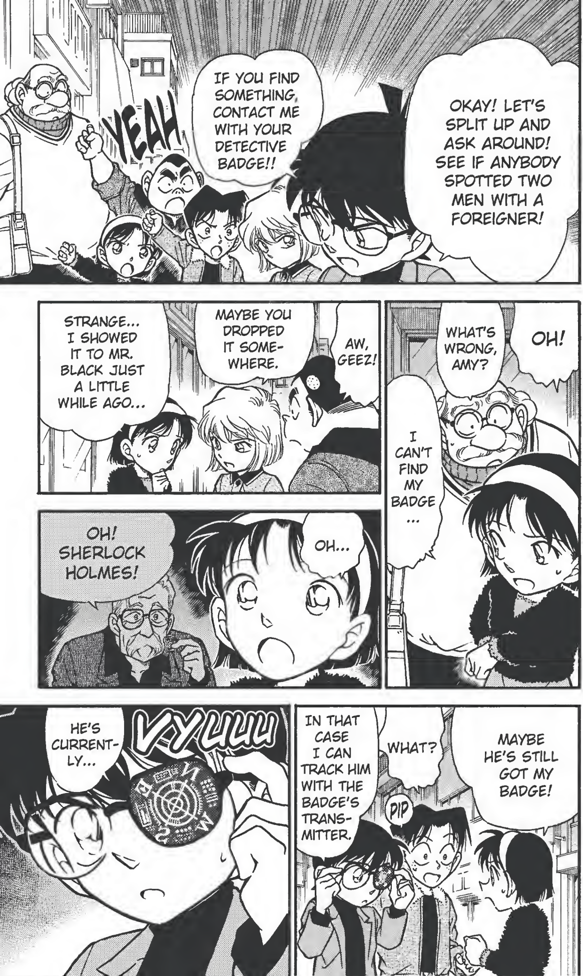

LOOK, HOW MANY TIMES DO WE HAVE TO TELL YOU?
THIS FOREIGN GUY WITH A MOUSTACHE AND GLASSES IS IN TROUBLE!
HE MAY HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED!
BUT...
...YOU DIDN'T ACTUALLY *SEE* ANYTHING, RIGHT?
AND THERE ARE LOTS OF FOREIGN GUYS WITH MOUSTACHES AND GLASSES IN TOKYO!
IF ONLY YOU HAD A PHOTOGRAPH OR SOMETHING...
WE DO HAVE A PHOTO!
FLIP
THIS IS WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE!
Randy Hawk

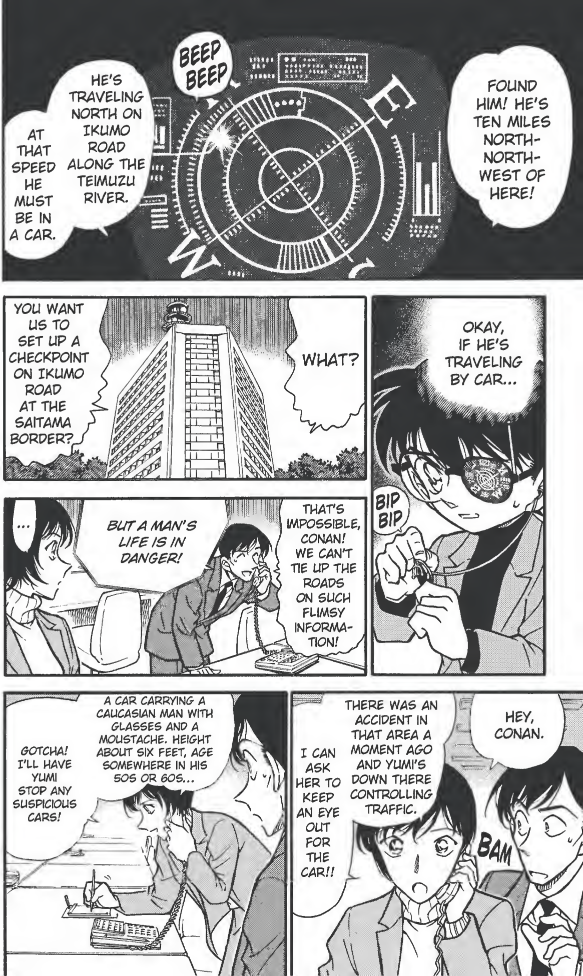

OH, MR. RANDY HAWK!
HE'S FINE!
HE WAS ON THE RADIO A MINUTE AGO...
NO! IT'S *MR. BLACK!* HE JUST *LOOKS* LIKE MR. HAWK!
HUH?
HEY, WAS THAT A LIVE RADIO BROADCAST?
ER... YEAH. I THINK IT'S STILL ON.
...
SHOOT... IF THESE GUYS MISTOOK MR. BLACK FOR MR. HAWK AND KIDNAPPED HIM...
...THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE THEY'LL TUNE IN TO THE RADIO SHOW HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE ON.
IF THAT'S TRUE, THEY'LL FIGURE OUT...
RIGHT. ONCE THEY REALIZE THEY HAVE THE WRONG MAN...
...THEY MAY DECIDE IT'S NOT WORTH KEEPING HIM ALIVE.
VROOM
HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON?
Metropolitan Police

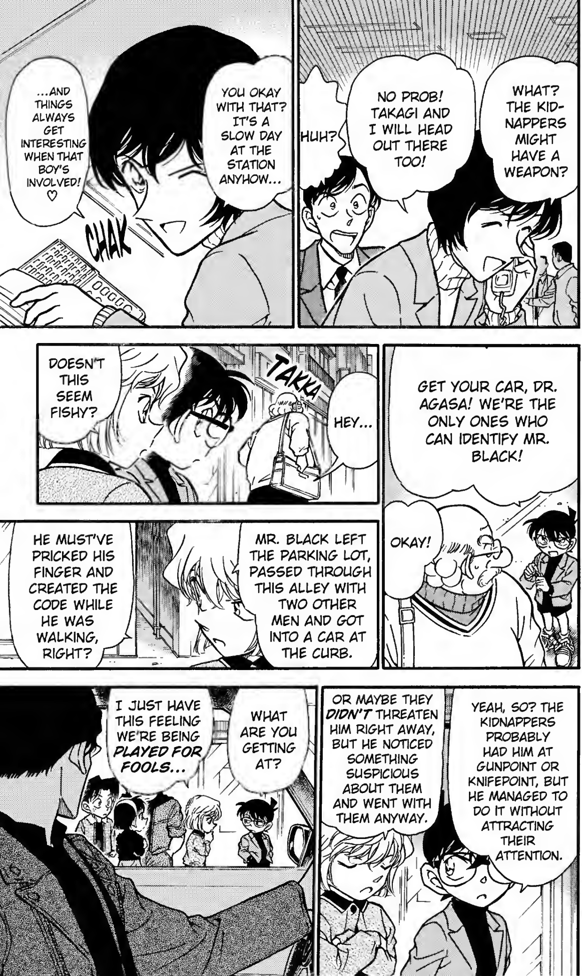

RANDY HAWK'S ON THE RADIO RIGHT NOW! AND IT'S *LIVE!*
PLEASE KEEP ON CHEERIN' FOR PAUL, ANNIE AND ME, RANDY! ♡
THEN WHO ARE *YOU?*
I TOLD YOU...
...YOU HAVE THE WRONG MAN.
DAMMIT! I CAN'T *BELIEVE* THIS!!
NOW WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO? HE'S SEEN OUR FACES!
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO *KILL HIM!!!*
OH NO!!
STOP IT!
YOU WANT TO DRIVE AROUND THE CITY WITH A BLOODY CORPSE?
WE'LL BLOW HIS BRAINS OUT ONCE WE GET TO THE MOUNTAINS OF GUNMA, LIKE WE PLANNED FROM THE START.
AFTER WE BURY HIM WE'LL PLAN OUR NEXT MOVE.

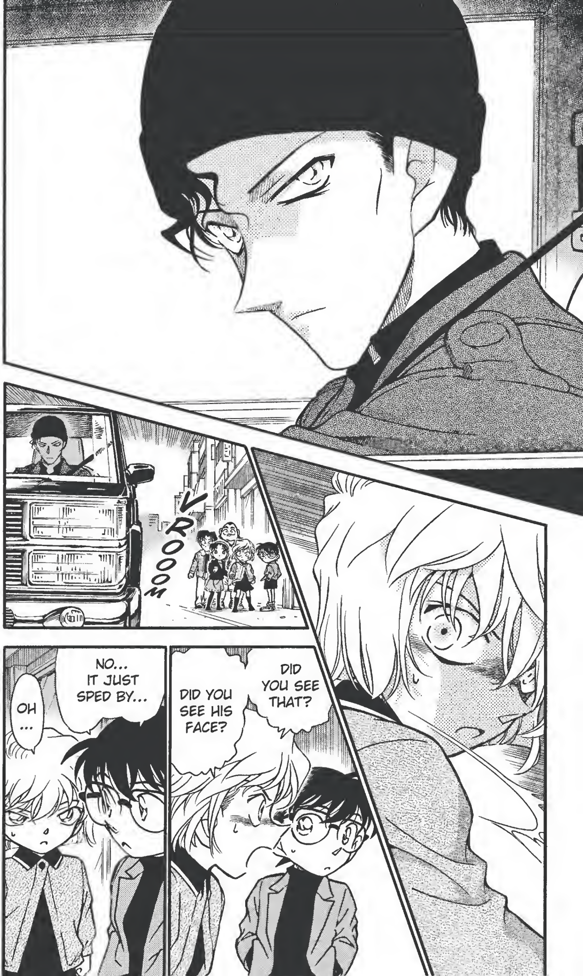

VROOOM
THE COPS HAVE NO CLUE WHO WE ARE, AND THEY DON'T KNOW THIS FOREIGNER WAS KIDNAPPED IN THE FIRST PLACE...
IF WE'RE CAREFUL, NOBODY WILL EVER KNOW.
P & A?
WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S PROBABLY A CLUE MR. BLACK LEFT BEHIND FOR US!
LOOK! HE LEFT BLOOD ON THOSE LETTERS!
The Animal show with Paul & Annie
OKAY, OKAY! WE'LL TAKE THIS BACK TO THE STATION AND SEE IF IT'S REAL BLOOD!
STOP BY OUR POLICE BOX TOMORROW!
HEY, WAIT...
IF ONLY WE COULD CRACK THAT CODE...
P AND A SPELLS "PA"...
...

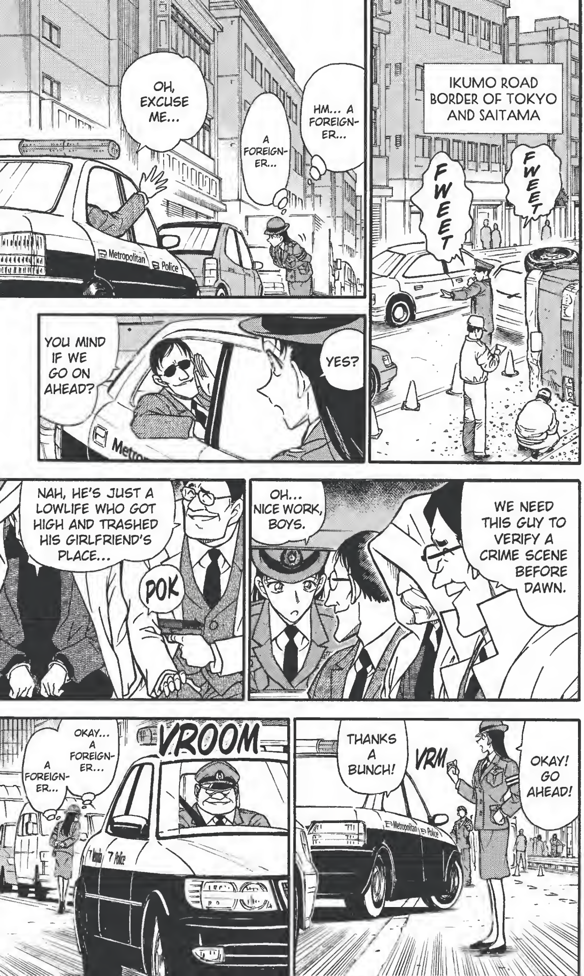

MAYBE IT'S A SHOP STARTING WITH "PA"?
LIKE *PAN-YA!* THE BAKERY!
NAH.
Paul & Annie
with Paul
IF HE WAS IN A HURRY AND TRYING TO SPELL "PA," HE COULD'VE LEFT BLOOD ON THE FIRST TWO LETTERS OF "PAUL."
I THINK WE HAVE TO SEPARATE THE LETTERS TO DECIPHER THIS CLUE.
P AND A... P AND A...
PONIES AND APPLES...
PRO WRESTLING AND ACTION...
PERSONAL COMPUTER AND ACCESS...
PISTOL AND ASSASSIN...
CAN'T YOU THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE?
HEY! MAYBE IT'S SUPPOSED TO STAND FOR "PARKING AREA"!!
AH! THE PARKING LOT!!
HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO KNOW WHICH PARKING LOT?
MAYBE HE LEFT US ANOTHER CLUE INSIDE THE VAN AT THE PARKING LOT...
BUT I ALREADY SEARCHED INSIDE AND I DIDN'T FIND ANYTHING.
WE'RE NOT GETTING ANYWHERE!
OUR BEST HOPE NOW IS TO ASSUME THEY'RE STILL NEARBY AND LOOK FOR WITNESSES!

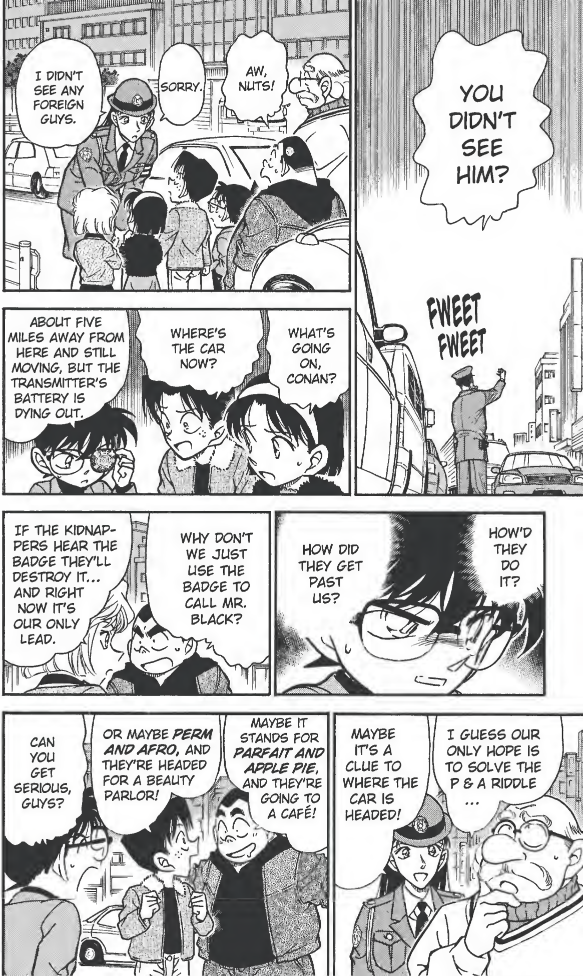

OKAY! LET'S SPLIT UP AND ASK AROUND! SEE IF ANYBODY SPOTTED TWO MEN WITH A FOREIGNER!
IF YOU FIND SOMETHING, CONTACT ME WITH YOUR DETECTIVE BADGE!!
YEAH
OH!
WHAT'S WRONG, AMY?
I CAN'T FIND MY BADGE...
AW, GEEZ!
MAYBE YOU DROPPED IT SOMEWHERE.
STRANGE... I SHOWED IT TO MR. BLACK JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO...
OH...
OH! SHERLOCK HOLMES!
MAYBE HE'S STILL GOT MY BADGE!
WHAT?
IN THAT CASE I CAN TRACK HIM WITH THE BADGE'S TRANSMITTER.
PIP
VYUUU
HE'S CURRENTLY...

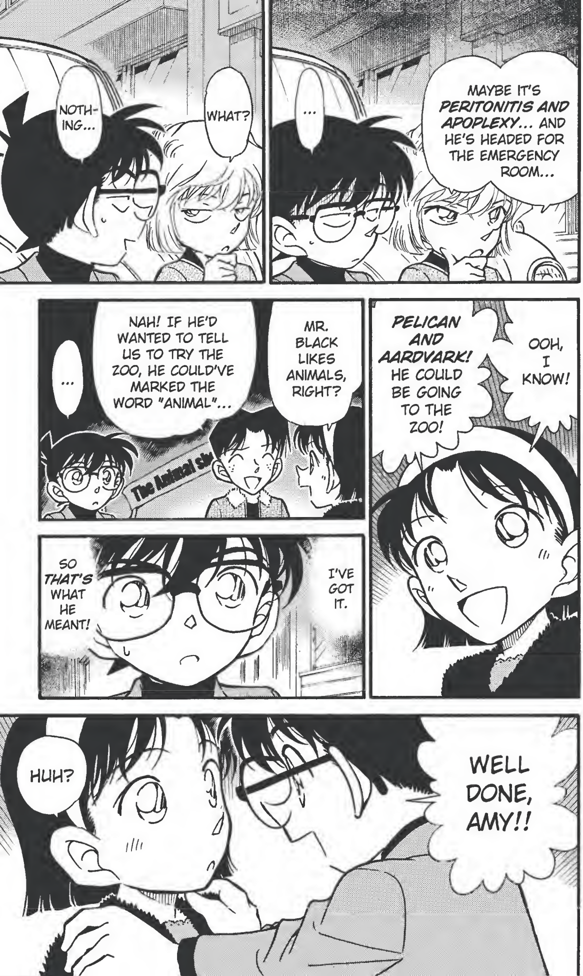

FOUND HIM! HE'S TEN MILES NORTH-NORTH-WEST OF HERE!
BEEP BEEP
HE'S TRAVELING NORTH ON IKUMO ROAD ALONG THE TEIMUZU RIVER.
AT THAT SPEED HE MUST BE IN A CAR.
OKAY, IF HE'S TRAVELING BY CAR...
BIP BIP
WHAT?
YOU WANT US TO SET UP A CHECKPOINT ON IKUMO ROAD AT THE SAITAMA BORDER?
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE, CONAN! WE CAN'T TIE UP THE ROADS ON SUCH FLIMSY INFORMATION!
BUT A MAN'S LIFE IS IN DANGER!
...
HEY, CONAN.
BAM
THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT IN THAT AREA A MOMENT AGO AND YUMI'S DOWN THERE CONTROLLING TRAFFIC.
I CAN ASK HER TO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THE CAR!!
A CAR CARRYING A CAUCASIAN MAN WITH GLASSES AND A MOUSTACHE. HEIGHT ABOUT SIX FEET, AGE SOMEWHERE IN HIS 50S OR 60S...
GOTCHA! I'LL HAVE YUMI STOP ANY SUSPICIOUS CARS!

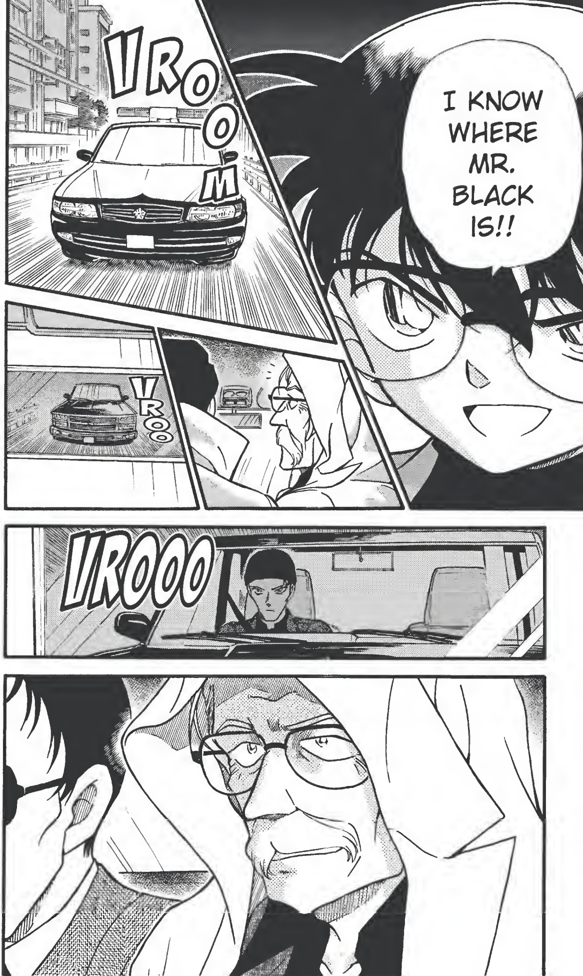

WHAT? THE KIDNAPPERS MIGHT HAVE A WEAPON?
NO PROB! TAKAGI AND I WILL HEAD OUT THERE TOO!
HUH?
YOU OKAY WITH THAT? IT'S A SLOW DAY AT THE STATION ANYHOW...
...AND THINGS ALWAYS GET INTERESTING WHEN THAT BOY'S INVOLVED! ♡
CHAK
GET YOUR CAR, DR. AGASA! WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN IDENTIFY MR. BLACK!
OKAY!
HEY...
TAKKA
DOESN'T THIS SEEM FISHY?
MR. BLACK LEFT THE PARKING LOT, PASSED THROUGH THIS ALLEY WITH TWO OTHER MEN AND GOT INTO A CAR AT THE CURB.
HE MUST'VE PRICKED HIS FINGER AND CREATED THE CODE WHILE HE WAS WALKING, RIGHT?
YEAH, SO? THE KIDNAPPERS PROBABLY HAD HIM AT GUNPOINT OR KNIFEPOINT, BUT HE MANAGED TO DO IT WITHOUT ATTRACTING THEIR ATTENTION.
OR MAYBE THEY *DIDN'T* THREATEN HIM RIGHT AWAY, BUT HE NOTICED SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS ABOUT THEM AND WENT WITH THEM ANYWAY.
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT?
I JUST HAVE THIS FEELING WE'RE BEING *PLAYED FOR FOOLS*...


VROOOOM
DID YOU SEE THAT?
DID YOU SEE HIS FACE?
NO... IT JUST SPED BY...
OH ...


IKUMO ROAD BORDER OF TOKYO AND SAITAMA
FWEET
FWEET
HM... A FOREIGNER...
A FOREIGNER...
OH, EXCUSE ME...
Metropolitan Police
YES?
YOU MIND IF WE GO ON AHEAD?
WE NEED THIS GUY TO VERIFY A CRIME SCENE BEFORE DAWN.
OH... NICE WORK, BOYS.
NAH, HE'S JUST A LOWLIFE WHO GOT HIGH AND TRASHED HIS GIRLFRIEND'S PLACE...
POK
OKAY! GO AHEAD!
VRM
THANKS A BUNCH!
Metropolitan Police
VROOM
OKAY... A FOREIGNER...
A FOREIGNER...

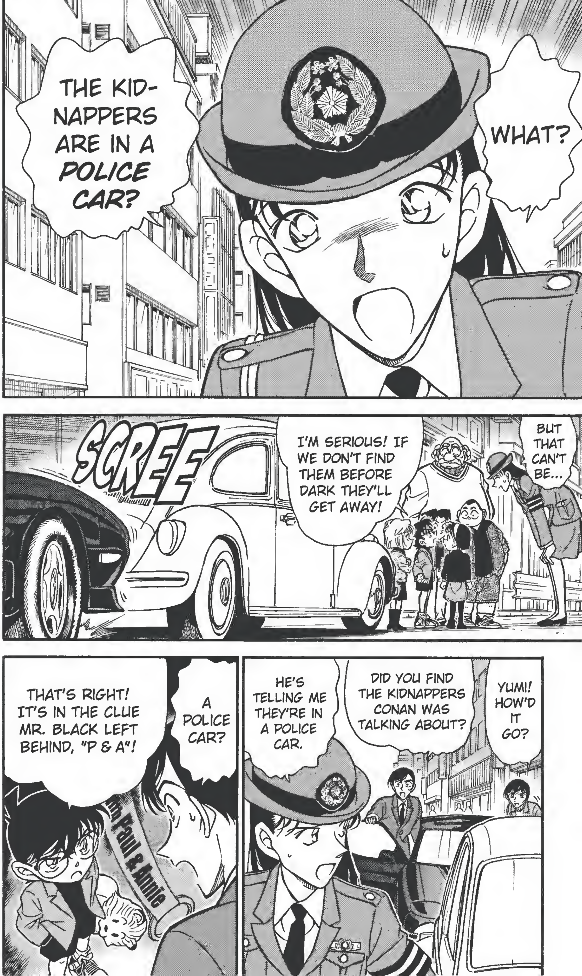

YOU DIDN'T SEE HIM?
FWEET FWEET
AW, NUTS!
SORRY.
I DIDN'T SEE ANY FOREIGN GUYS.
WHAT'S GOING ON, CONAN?
WHERE'S THE CAR NOW?
ABOUT FIVE MILES AWAY FROM HERE AND STILL MOVING, BUT THE TRANSMITTER'S BATTERY IS DYING OUT.
HOW'D THEY DO IT?
HOW DID THEY GET PAST US?
WHY DON'T WE JUST USE THE BADGE TO CALL MR. BLACK?
IF THE KIDNAPPERS HEAR THE BADGE THEY'LL DESTROY IT… AND RIGHT NOW IT'S OUR ONLY LEAD.
I GUESS OUR ONLY HOPE IS TO SOLVE THE P & A RIDDLE …
MAYBE IT'S A CLUE TO WHERE THE CAR IS HEADED!
MAYBE IT STANDS FOR *PARFAIT AND APPLE PIE*, AND THEY'RE GOING TO A CAFÉ!
OR MAYBE *PERM AND AFRO*, AND THEY'RE HEADED FOR A BEAUTY PARLOR!
CAN YOU GET SERIOUS, GUYS?

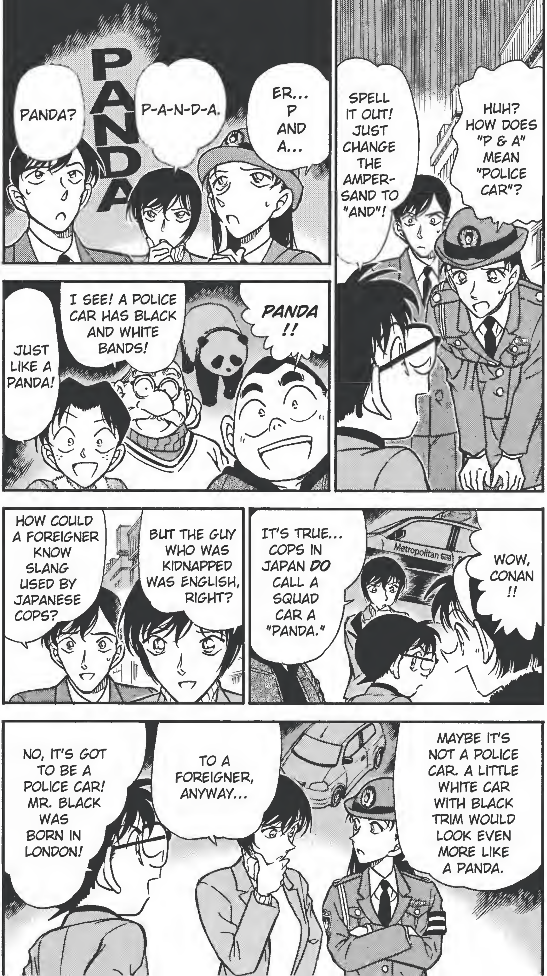

MAYBE IT'S *PERITONITIS AND APOPLEXY...* AND HE'S HEADED FOR THE EMERGENCY ROOM...
...
WHAT?
NOTHING...
OOH, I KNOW!
PELICAN AND AARDVARK! HE COULD BE GOING TO THE ZOO!
MR. BLACK LIKES ANIMALS, RIGHT?
NAH! IF HE'D WANTED TO TELL US TO TRY THE ZOO, HE COULD'VE MARKED THE WORD "ANIMAL"...
...
The Animal sle
I'VE GOT IT.
SO *THAT'S* WHAT HE MEANT!
WELL DONE, AMY!!
HUH?

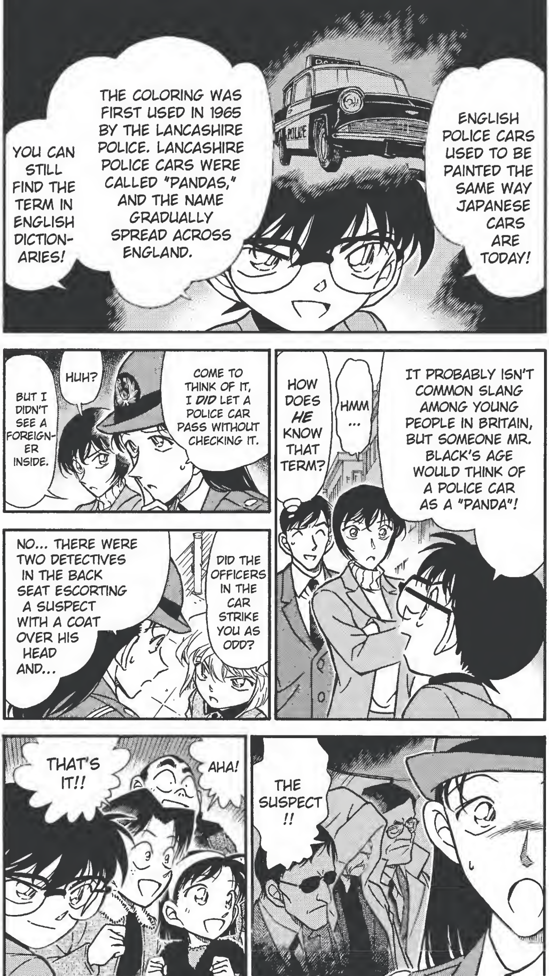

I KNOW WHERE MR. BLACK IS!!
VROOM
VROO
VROOO

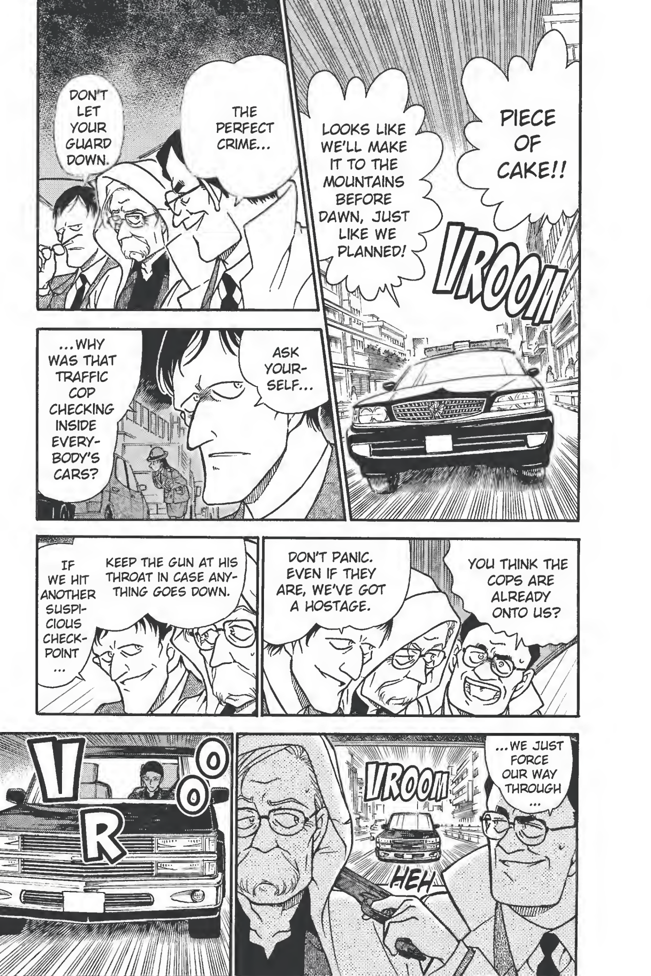
FILE 10: A CRAZY PLAN

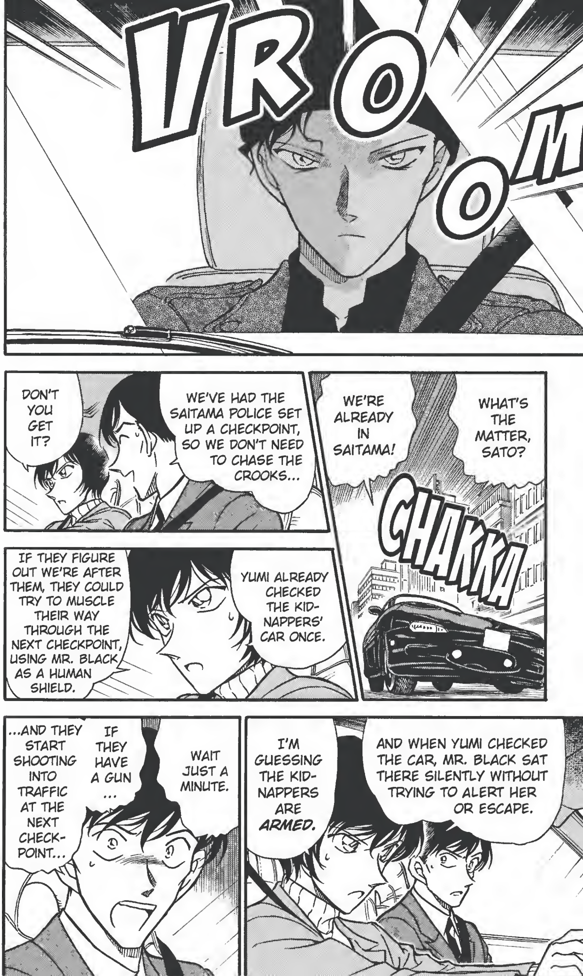
POLICE
POLICE

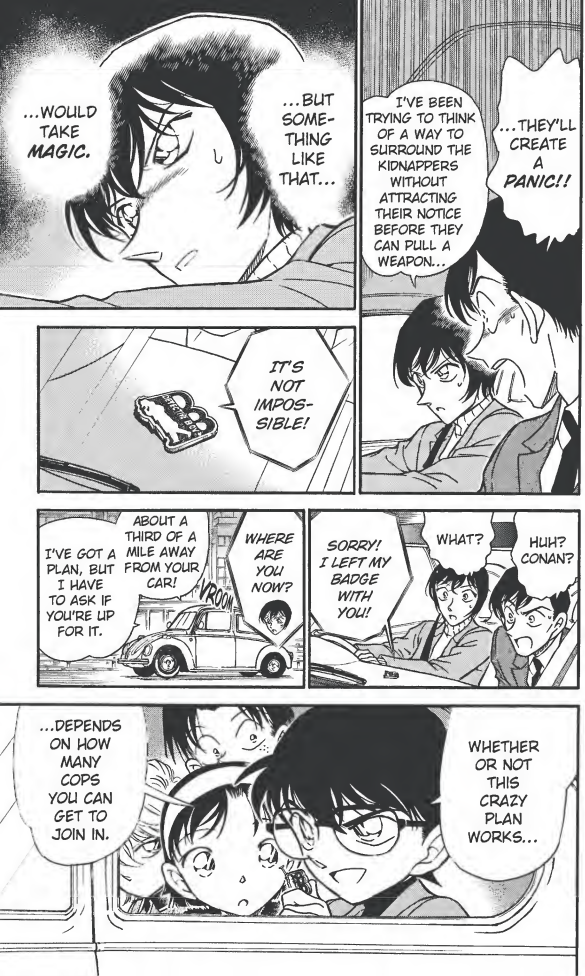

WHAT?
THE KIDNAPPERS ARE IN A *POLICE CAR?*
BUT THAT CAN'T BE...
I'M SERIOUS! IF WE DON'T FIND THEM BEFORE DARK THEY'LL GET AWAY!
SCREE
YUMI! HOW'D IT GO?
DID YOU FIND THE KIDNAPPERS CONAN WAS TALKING ABOUT?
HE'S TELLING ME THEY'RE IN A POLICE CAR.
A POLICE CAR?
THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S IN THE CLUE MR. BLACK LEFT BEHIND, "P & A"!
m Paul & Annie

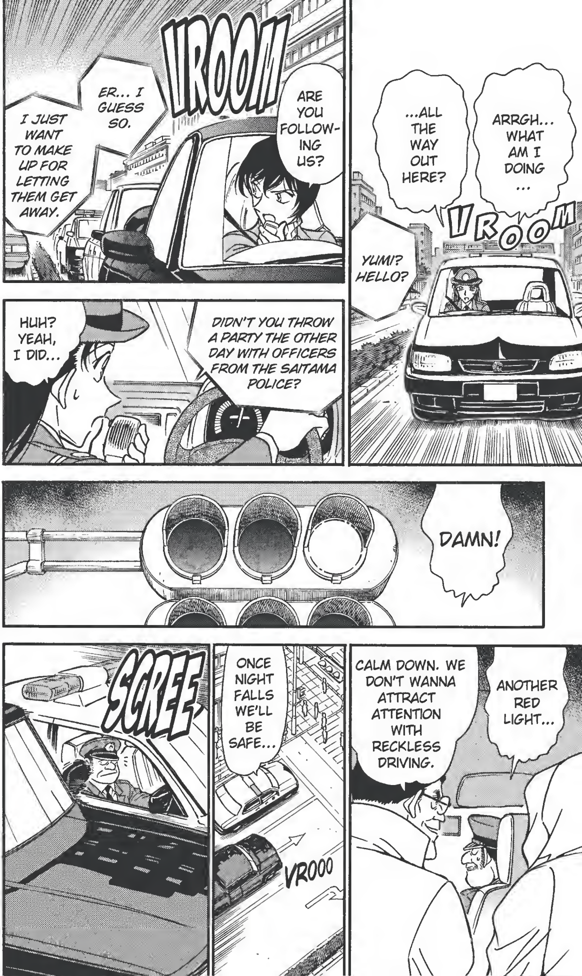

HUH? HOW DOES "P & A" MEAN "POLICE CAR"?
SPELL IT OUT! JUST CHANGE THE AMPERSAND TO "AND"!
ER... P AND A...
P-A-N-D-A.
PANDA
PANDA?
PANDA !!
I SEE! A POLICE CAR HAS BLACK AND WHITE BANDS!
JUST LIKE A PANDA!
WOW, CONAN !!
Metropolitan
IT'S TRUE... COPS IN JAPAN *DO* CALL A SQUAD CAR A "PANDA."
BUT THE GUY WHO WAS KIDNAPPED WAS ENGLISH, RIGHT?
HOW COULD A FOREIGNER KNOW SLANG USED BY JAPANESE COPS?
MAYBE IT'S NOT A POLICE CAR. A LITTLE WHITE CAR WITH BLACK TRIM WOULD LOOK EVEN MORE LIKE A PANDA.
TO A FOREIGNER, ANYWAY...
NO, IT'S GOT TO BE A POLICE CAR! MR. BLACK WAS BORN IN LONDON!

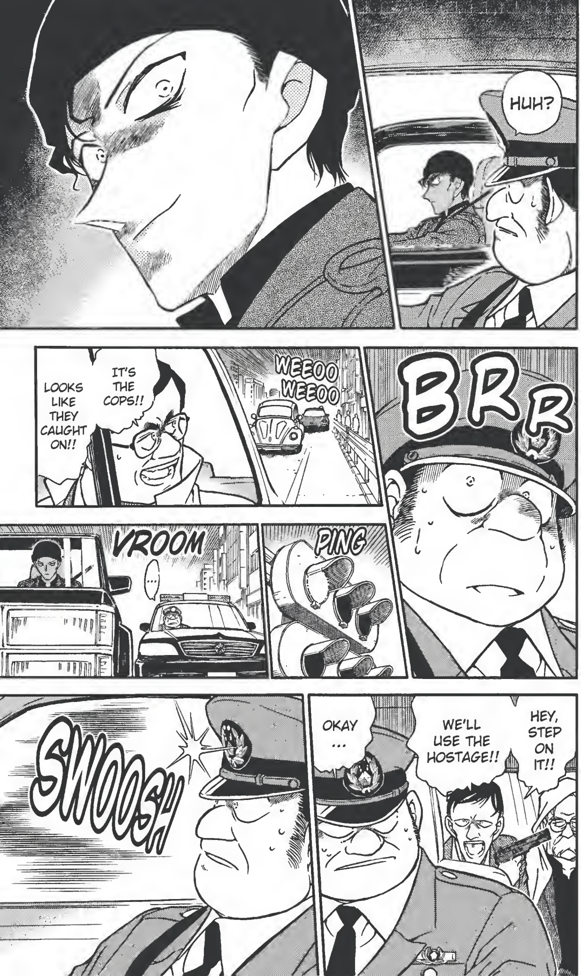

ENGLISH POLICE CARS USED TO BE PAINTED THE SAME WAY JAPANESE CARS ARE TODAY!
THE COLORING WAS FIRST USED IN 1965 BY THE LANCASHIRE POLICE. LANCASHIRE POLICE CARS WERE CALLED "PANDAS," AND THE NAME GRADUALLY SPREAD ACROSS ENGLAND.
YOU CAN STILL FIND THE TERM IN ENGLISH DICTIONARIES!
POLICE
IT PROBABLY ISN'T COMMON SLANG AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE IN BRITAIN, BUT SOMEONE MR. BLACK'S AGE WOULD THINK OF A POLICE CAR AS A "PANDA"!
HMM...
HOW DOES *HE* KNOW THAT TERM?
COME TO THINK OF IT, I *DID* LET A POLICE CAR PASS WITHOUT CHECKING IT.
HUH?
BUT I DIDN'T SEE A FOREIGNER INSIDE.
DID THE OFFICERS IN THE CAR STRIKE YOU AS ODD?
NO... THERE WERE TWO DETECTIVES IN THE BACK SEAT ESCORTING A SUSPECT WITH A COAT OVER HIS HEAD AND...
THE SUSPECT!!
AHA!
THAT'S IT!!

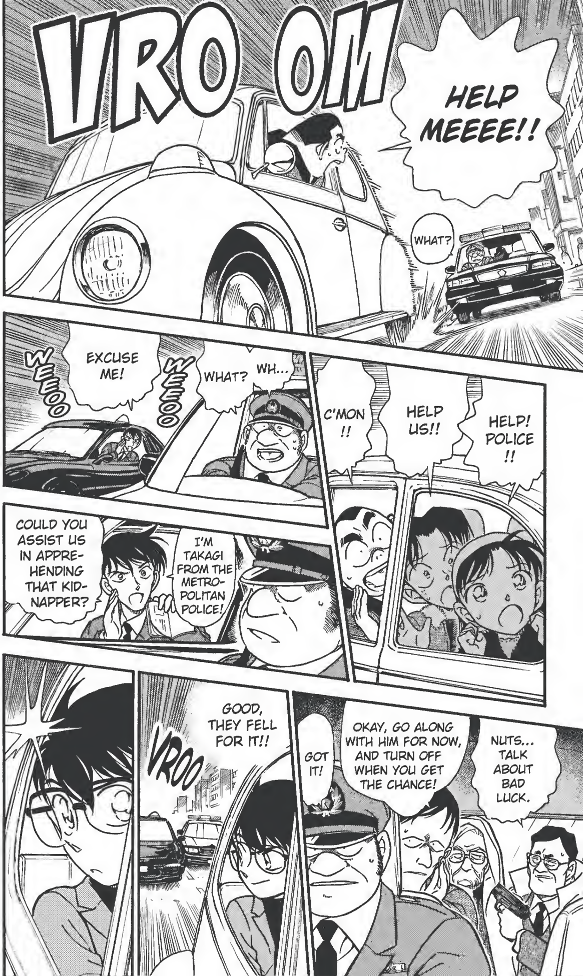

PIECE OF CAKE!!
LOOKS LIKE WE'LL MAKE IT TO THE MOUNTAINS BEFORE DAWN, JUST LIKE WE PLANNED!
VROOM
THE PERFECT CRIME...
DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN.
ASK YOURSELF...
...WHY WAS THAT TRAFFIC COP CHECKING INSIDE EVERYBODY'S CARS?
YOU THINK THE COPS ARE ALREADY ONTO US?
DON'T PANIC. EVEN IF THEY ARE, WE'VE GOT A HOSTAGE.
KEEP THE GUN AT HIS THROAT IN CASE ANYTHING GOES DOWN.
IF WE HIT ANOTHER SUSPICIOUS CHECKPOINT...
...WE JUST FORCE OUR WAY THROUGH...
VROOM
HEH
VROOO

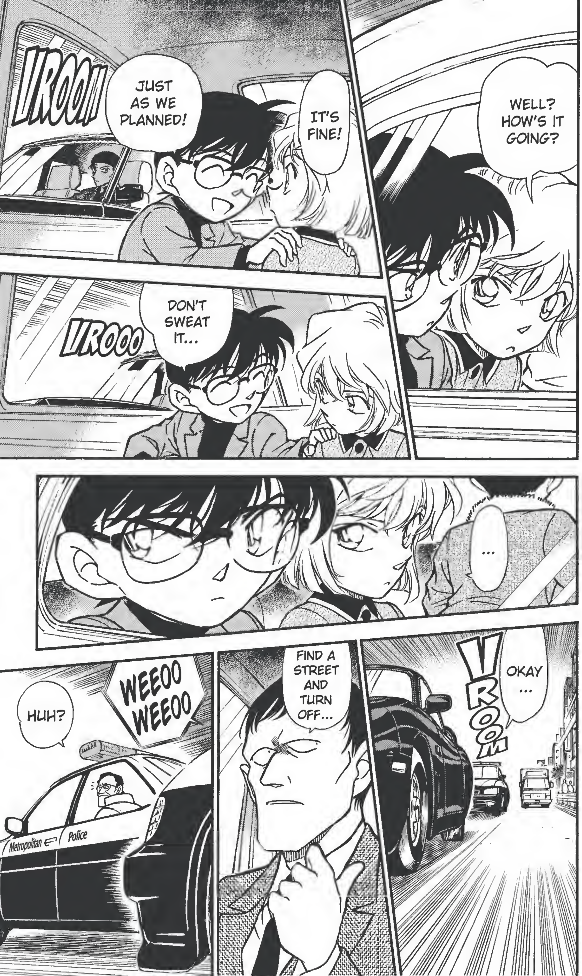

VROOOM
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SATO?
WE'RE ALREADY IN SAITAMA!
CHAKKA
WE'VE HAD THE SAITAMA POLICE SET UP A CHECKPOINT, SO WE DON'T NEED TO CHASE THE CROOKS...
DON'T YOU GET IT?
YUMI ALREADY CHECKED THE KIDNAPPERS' CAR ONCE.
IF THEY FIGURE OUT WE'RE AFTER THEM, THEY COULD TRY TO MUSCLE THEIR WAY THROUGH THE NEXT CHECKPOINT, USING MR. BLACK AS A HUMAN SHIELD.
AND WHEN YUMI CHECKED THE CAR, MR. BLACK SAT THERE SILENTLY WITHOUT TRYING TO ALERT HER OR ESCAPE.
I'M GUESSING THE KIDNAPPERS ARE *ARMED.*
WAIT JUST A MINUTE.
IF THEY HAVE A GUN...
...AND THEY START SHOOTING INTO TRAFFIC AT THE NEXT CHECKPOINT...

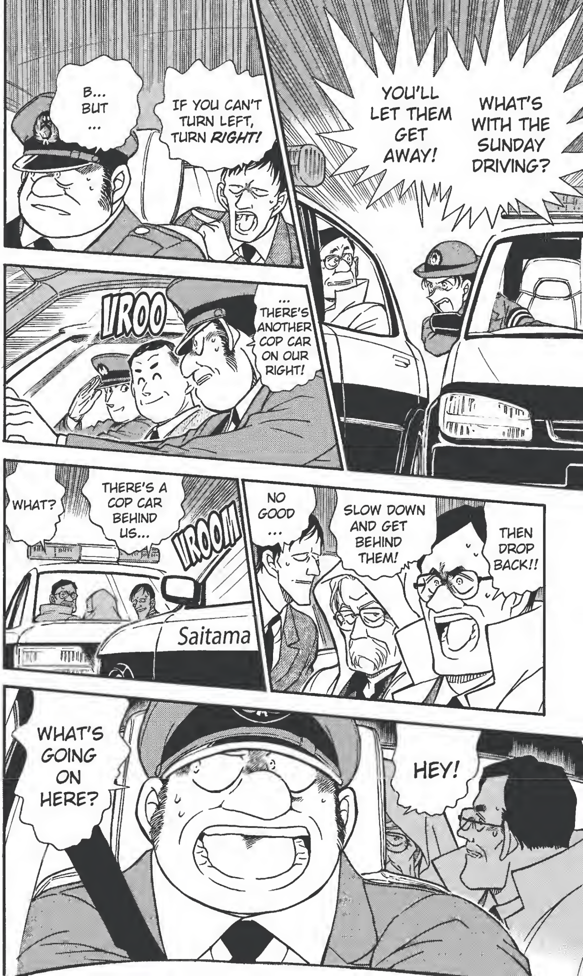

...THEY'LL CREATE A *PANIC!!*
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO THINK OF A WAY TO SURROUND THE KIDNAPPERS WITHOUT ATTRACTING THEIR NOTICE BEFORE THEY CAN PULL A WEAPON...
...BUT SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
...WOULD TAKE *MAGIC.*
IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE!
DETECTIVE BOYS
HUH? CONAN?
WHAT?
SORRY! I LEFT MY BADGE WITH YOU!
WHERE ARE YOU NOW?
ABOUT A THIRD OF A MILE AWAY FROM YOUR CAR!
VROOM
I'VE GOT A PLAN, BUT I HAVE TO ASK IF YOU'RE UP FOR IT.
WHETHER OR NOT THIS CRAZY PLAN WORKS...
...DEPENDS ON HOW MANY COPS YOU CAN GET TO JOIN IN.

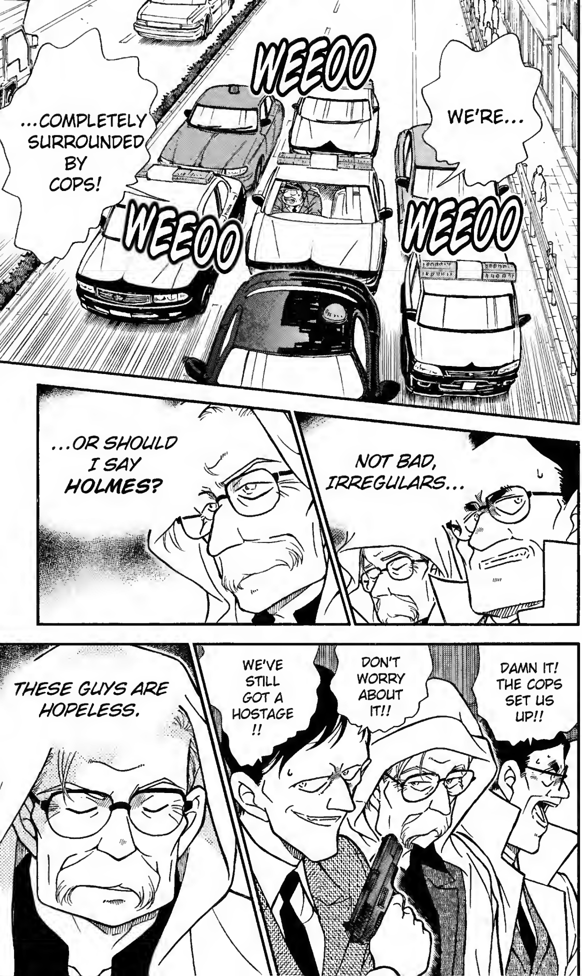

ARRGH... WHAT AM I DOING...
...ALL THE WAY OUT HERE?
VROOM
YUMI? HELLO?
VROOM
ARE YOU FOLLOWING US?
ER... I GUESS SO.
I JUST WANT TO MAKE UP FOR LETTING THEM GET AWAY.
DIDN'T YOU THROW A PARTY THE OTHER DAY WITH OFFICERS FROM THE SAITAMA POLICE?
HUH? YEAH, I DID...
DAMN!
ANOTHER RED LIGHT...
CALM DOWN. WE DON'T WANNA ATTRACT ATTENTION WITH RECKLESS DRIVING.
ONCE NIGHT FALLS WE'LL BE SAFE...
VROOO
SCREE

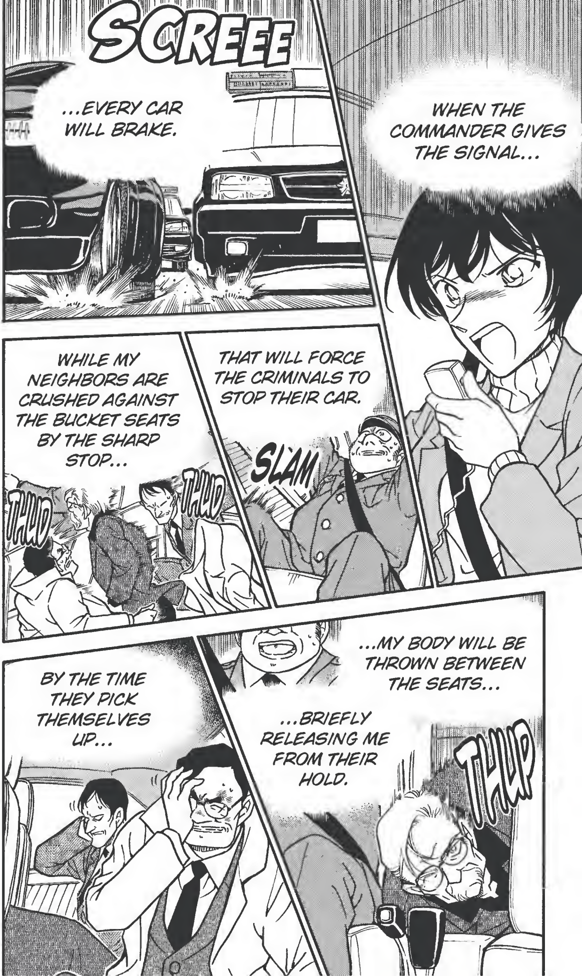

HUH?
BRR
WEEOO WEEOO
IT'S THE COPS!!
LOOKS LIKE THEY CAUGHT ON!!
PING
VROOM
...
HEY, STEP ON IT!!
WE'LL USE THE HOSTAGE!!
OKAY ...
SWOOSH

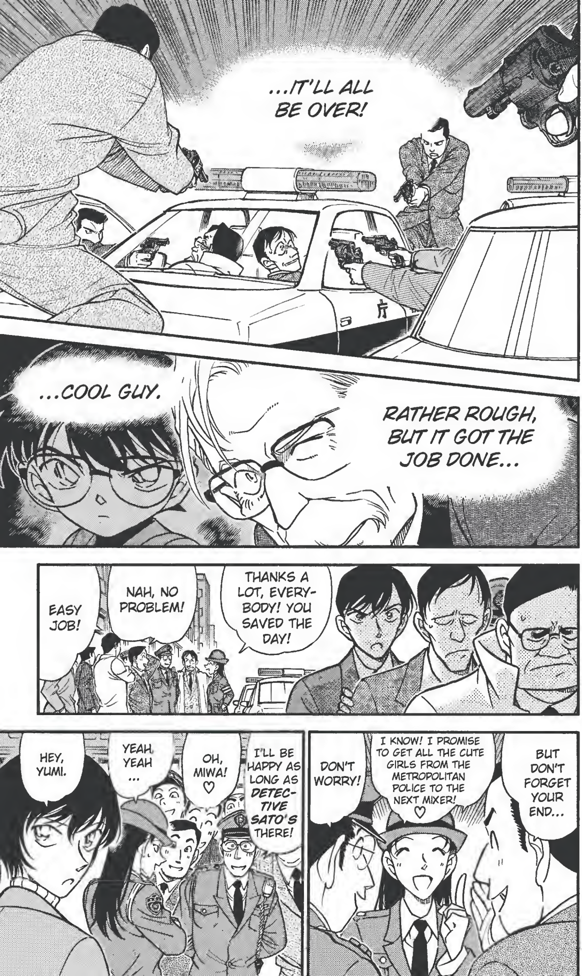

VROOM
HELP MEEEE!!
WHAT?
WEEOO
EXCUSE ME!
WEEOO
WHAT? WH...
C'MON!!
HELP US!!
HELP! POLICE!!
COULD YOU ASSIST US IN APPREHENDING THAT KIDNAPPER?
I'M TAKAGI FROM THE METROPOLITAN POLICE!
VROO
GOOD, THEY FELL FOR IT!!
OKAY, GO ALONG WITH HIM FOR NOW, AND TURN OFF WHEN YOU GET THE CHANCE!
GOT IT!
NUTS... TALK ABOUT BAD LUCK.

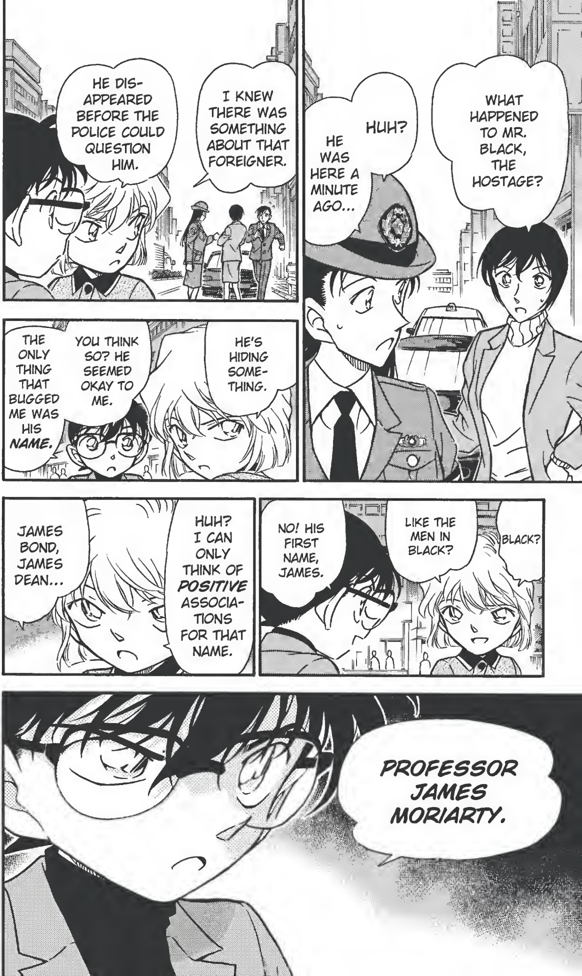

WELL? HOW'S IT GOING?
IT'S FINE!
JUST AS WE PLANNED!
VROOM
DON'T SWEAT IT...
VROOO
...
VROOM
OKAY...
FIND A STREET AND TURN OFF...
WEEOO WEEOO
HUH?
Metropolitan Police

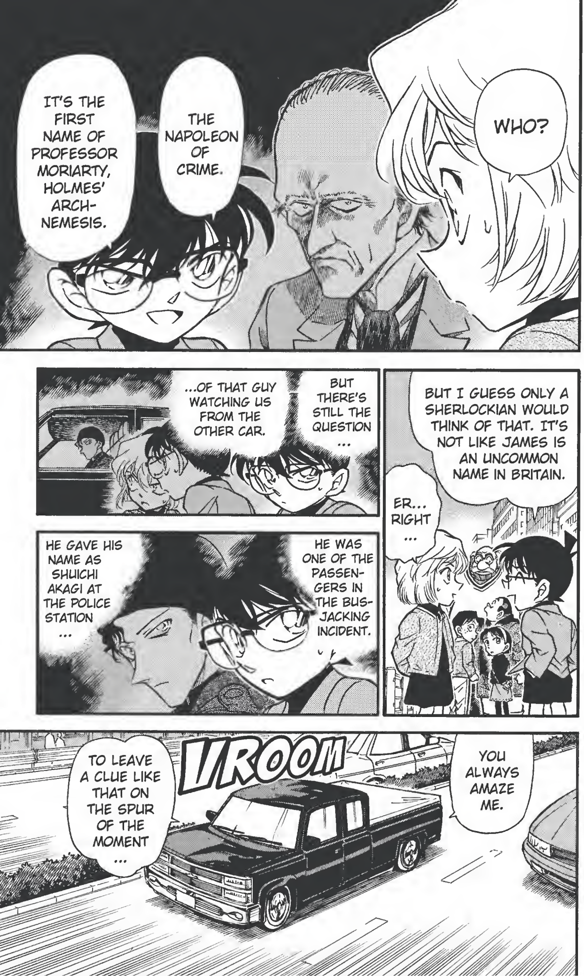

WHAT'S WITH THE SUNDAY DRIVING?
YOU'LL LET THEM GET AWAY!
IF YOU CAN'T TURN LEFT, TURN *RIGHT!*
B... BUT ...
VROO
... THERE'S ANOTHER COP CAR ON OUR RIGHT!
THEN DROP BACK!!
SLOW DOWN AND GET BEHIND THEM!
NO GOOD ...
THERE'S A COP CAR BEHIND US...
WHAT?
VROOM
Saitama
HEY!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

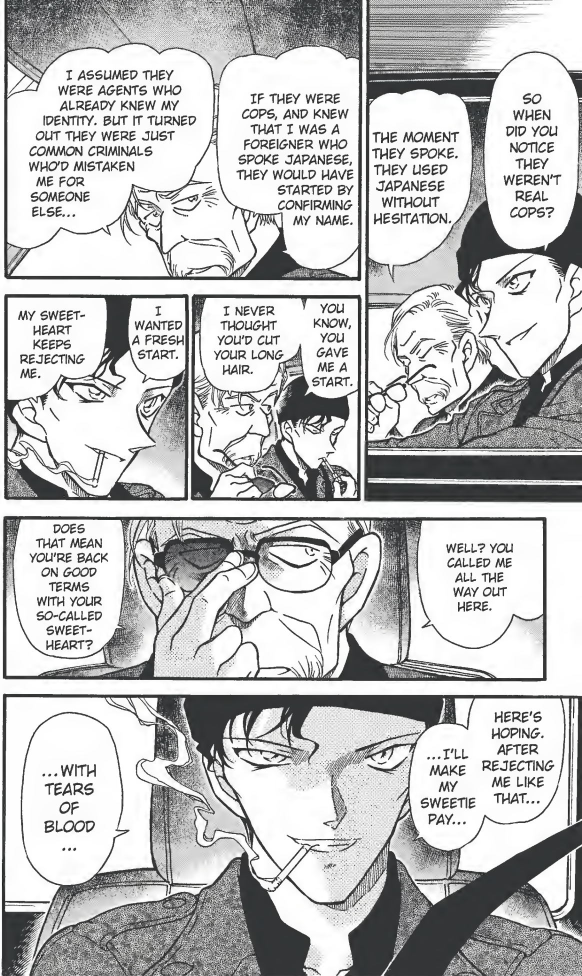

WEEOO
WE'RE...
...COMPLETELY SURROUNDED BY COPS!
WEEOO
WEEOO
NOT BAD, IRREGULARS...
...OR SHOULD I SAY **HOLMES?**
DAMN IT! THE COPS SET US UP!!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!!
WE'VE STILL GOT A HOSTAGE!!
THESE GUYS ARE HOPELESS.


WHEN THE COMMANDER GIVES THE SIGNAL...
SCREEE
...EVERY CAR WILL BRAKE.
THAT WILL FORCE THE CRIMINALS TO STOP THEIR CAR.
SLAM
WHILE MY NEIGHBORS ARE CRUSHED AGAINST THE BUCKET SEATS BY THE SHARP STOP...
THUD
THUD
...MY BODY WILL BE THROWN BETWEEN THE SEATS...
...BRIEFLY RELEASING ME FROM THEIR HOLD.
THUD
BY THE TIME THEY PICK THEMSELVES UP...

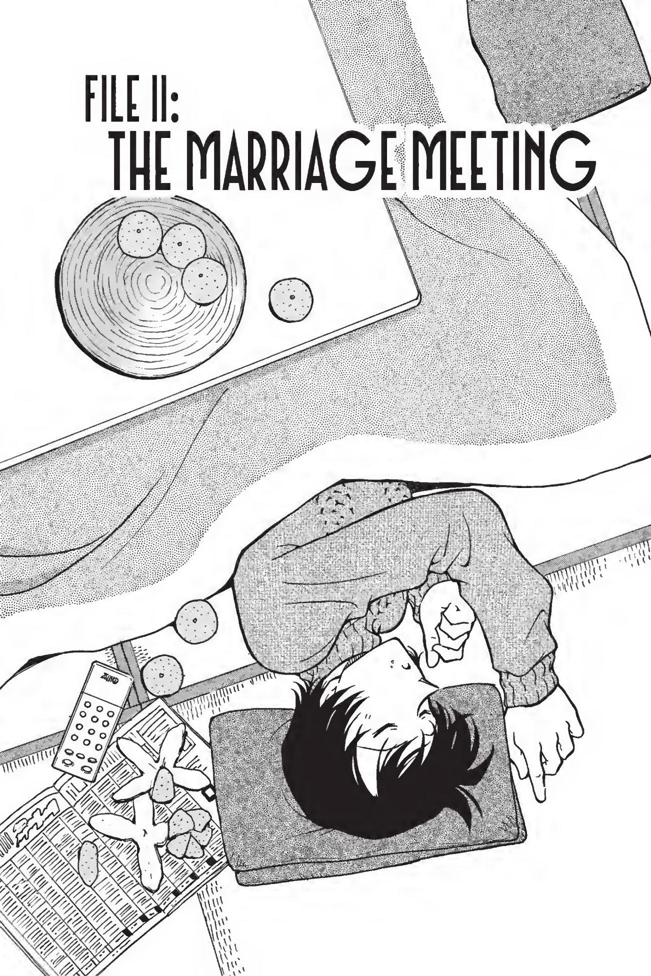

...IT'LL ALL BE OVER!
RATHER ROUGH, BUT IT GOT THE JOB DONE...
...COOL GUY.
THANKS A LOT, EVERYBODY! YOU SAVED THE DAY!
NAH, NO PROBLEM!
EASY JOB!
BUT DON'T FORGET YOUR END...
I KNOW! I PROMISE TO GET ALL THE CUTE GIRLS FROM THE METROPOLITAN POLICE TO THE NEXT MIXER! ♡
DON'T WORRY!
I'LL BE HAPPY AS LONG AS *DETECTIVE SATO'S* THERE!
OH, MIWA! ♡
YEAH YEAH ...
HEY, YUMI.

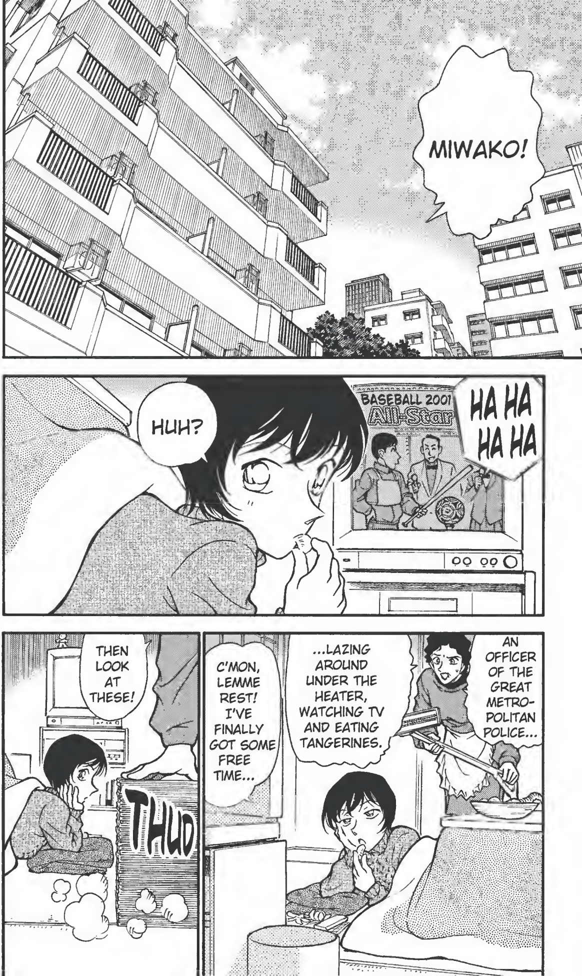

WHAT HAPPENED TO MR. BLACK, THE HOSTAGE?
HUH?
HE WAS HERE A MINUTE AGO...
I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT THAT FOREIGNER.
HE DISAPPEARED BEFORE THE POLICE COULD QUESTION HIM.
HE'S HIDING SOMETHING.
YOU THINK SO? HE SEEMED OKAY TO ME.
THE ONLY THING THAT BUGGED ME WAS HIS *NAME.*
BLACK?
LIKE THE MEN IN BLACK?
NO! HIS FIRST NAME, JAMES.
HUH? I CAN ONLY THINK OF *POSITIVE* ASSOCIATIONS FOR THAT NAME.
JAMES BOND, JAMES DEAN...
PROFESSOR JAMES MORIARTY.

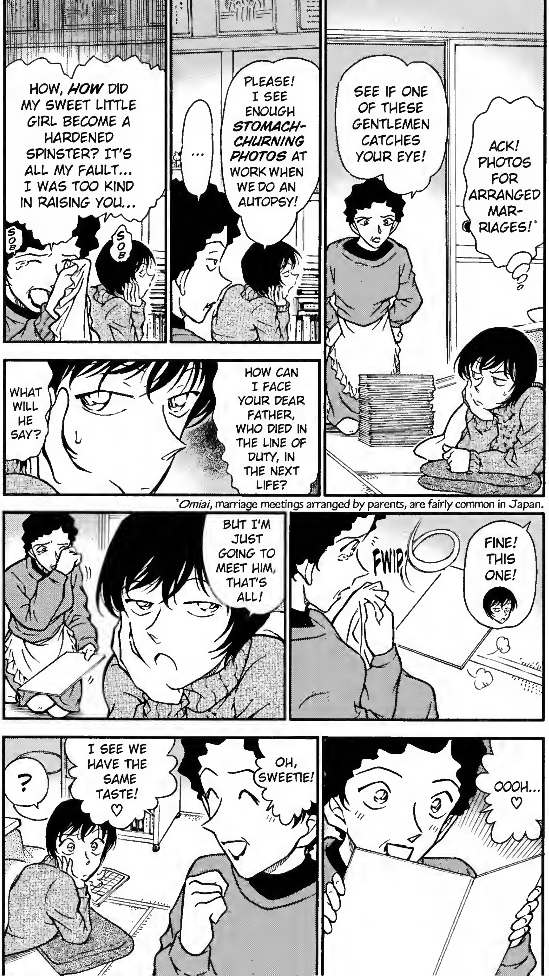

WHO?
THE NAPOLEON OF CRIME.
IT'S THE FIRST NAME OF PROFESSOR MORIARTY, HOLMES' ARCH-NEMESIS.
BUT I GUESS ONLY A SHERLOCKIAN WOULD THINK OF THAT. IT'S NOT LIKE JAMES IS AN UNCOMMON NAME IN BRITAIN.
ER... RIGHT ...
BUT THERE'S STILL THE QUESTION ...
...OF THAT GUY WATCHING US FROM THE OTHER CAR.
HE WAS ONE OF THE PASSENGERS IN THE BUS-JACKING INCIDENT.
HE GAVE HIS NAME AS SHUICHI AKAGI AT THE POLICE STATION ...
YOU ALWAYS AMAZE ME.
VROOM
TO LEAVE A CLUE LIKE THAT ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT ...


SO WHEN DID YOU NOTICE THEY WEREN'T REAL COPS?
THE MOMENT THEY SPOKE. THEY USED JAPANESE WITHOUT HESITATION.
IF THEY WERE COPS, AND KNEW THAT I WAS A FOREIGNER WHO SPOKE JAPANESE, THEY WOULD HAVE STARTED BY CONFIRMING MY NAME.
I ASSUMED THEY WERE AGENTS WHO ALREADY KNEW MY IDENTITY. BUT IT TURNED OUT THEY WERE JUST COMMON CRIMINALS WHO'D MISTAKEN ME FOR SOMEONE ELSE...
YOU KNOW, YOU GAVE ME A START.
I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D CUT YOUR LONG HAIR.
I WANTED A FRESH START.
MY SWEETHEART KEEPS REJECTING ME.
WELL? YOU CALLED ME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE.
DOES THAT MEAN YOU'RE BACK ON GOOD TERMS WITH YOUR SO-CALLED SWEETHEART?
HERE'S HOPING. AFTER REJECTING ME LIKE THAT...
...I'LL MAKE MY SWEETIE PAY...
...WITH TEARS OF BLOOD...

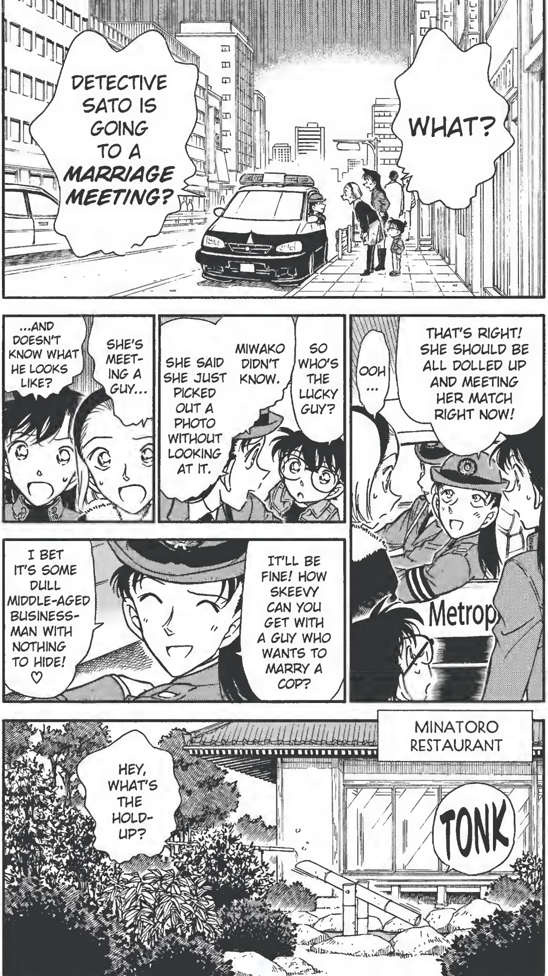
FILE 11:
THE MARRIAGE MEETING

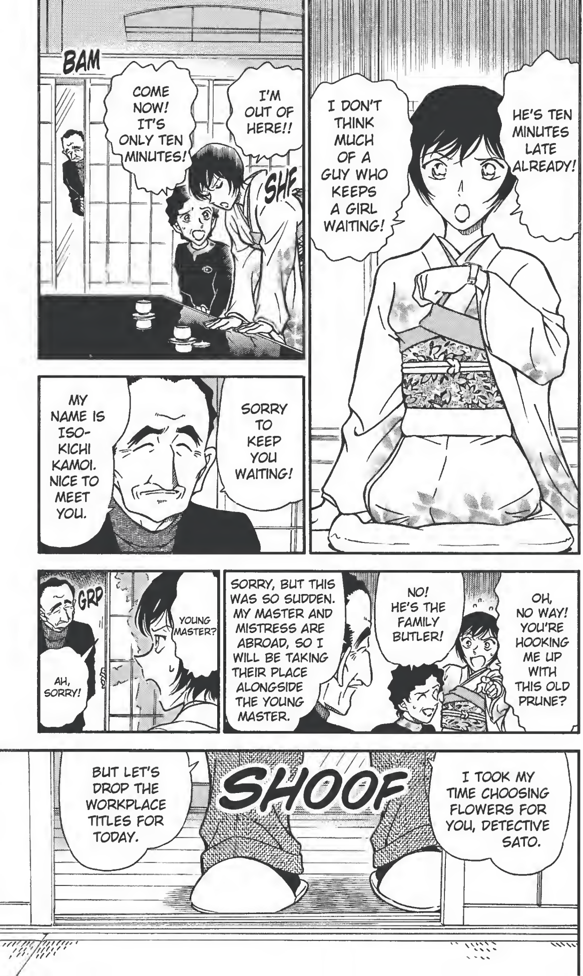


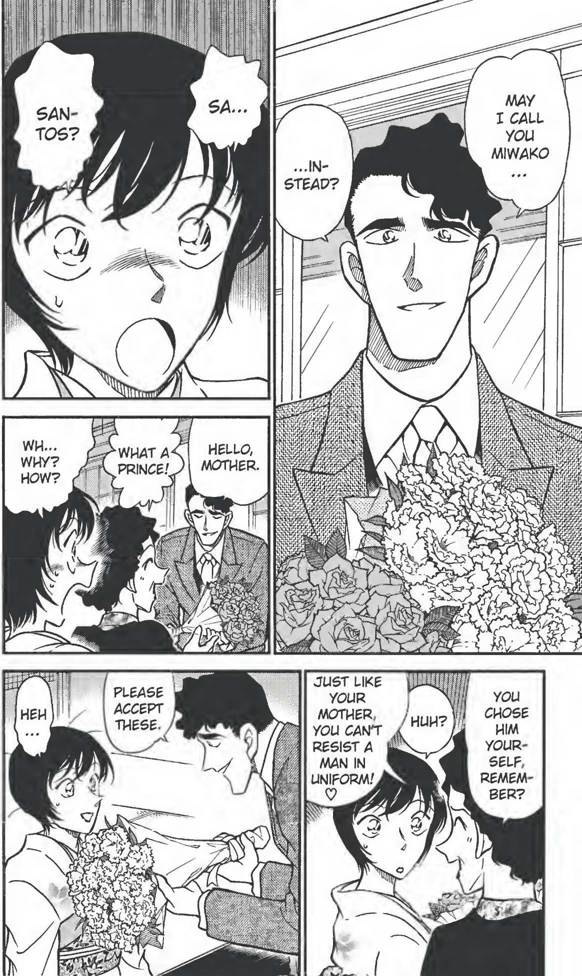

MIWAKO!
HA HA HA HA
BASEBALL 2001 All-Star
HUH?
AN OFFICER OF THE GREAT METROPOLITAN POLICE...
...LAZING AROUND UNDER THE HEATER, WATCHING TV AND EATING TANGERINES.
C'MON, LEMME REST! I'VE FINALLY GOT SOME FREE TIME...
THEN LOOK AT THESE!
THUD

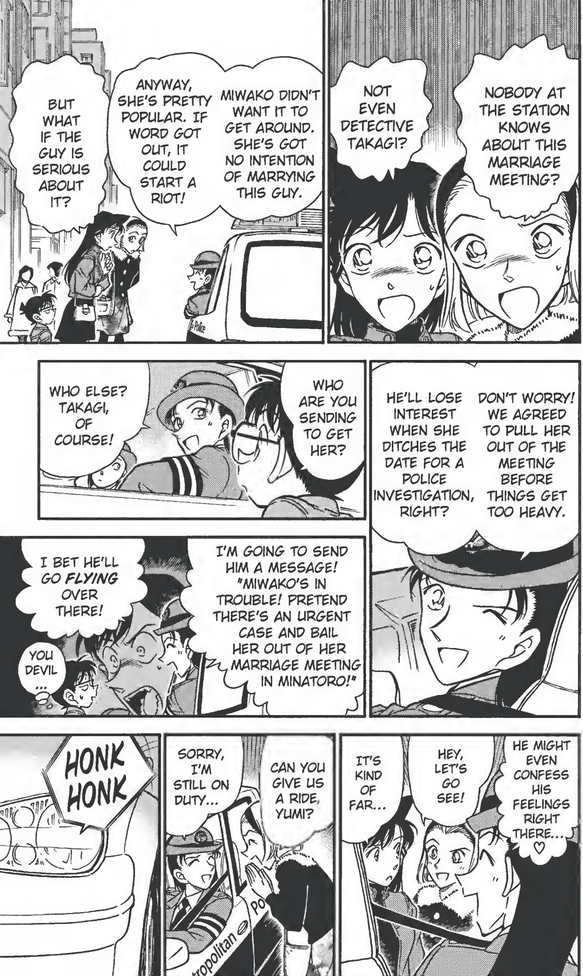

SEE IF ONE OF THESE GENTLEMEN CATCHES YOUR EYE!
ACK! PHOTOS FOR ARRANGED MARRIAGES!*
PLEASE! I SEE ENOUGH STOMACH-CHURNING PHOTOS AT WORK WHEN WE DO AN AUTOPSY!
...
HOW, HOW DID MY SWEET LITTLE GIRL BECOME A HARDENED SPINSTER? IT'S ALL MY FAULT... I WAS TOO KIND IN RAISING YOU...
SOB
SOB
HOW CAN I FACE YOUR DEAR FATHER, WHO DIED IN THE LINE OF DUTY, IN THE NEXT LIFE?
WHAT WILL HE SAY?
FINE! THIS ONE!
FWIP
BUT I'M JUST GOING TO MEET HIM, THAT'S ALL!
OOOH... ♡
OH, SWEETIE!
I SEE WE HAVE THE SAME TASTE! ♡
?

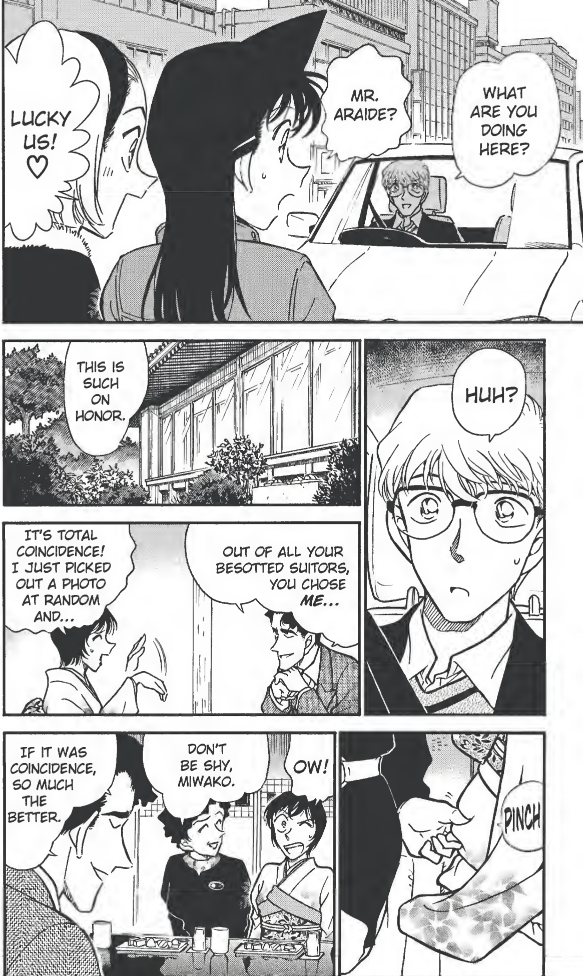
**Omiai*, marriage meetings arranged by parents, are fairly common in Japan.

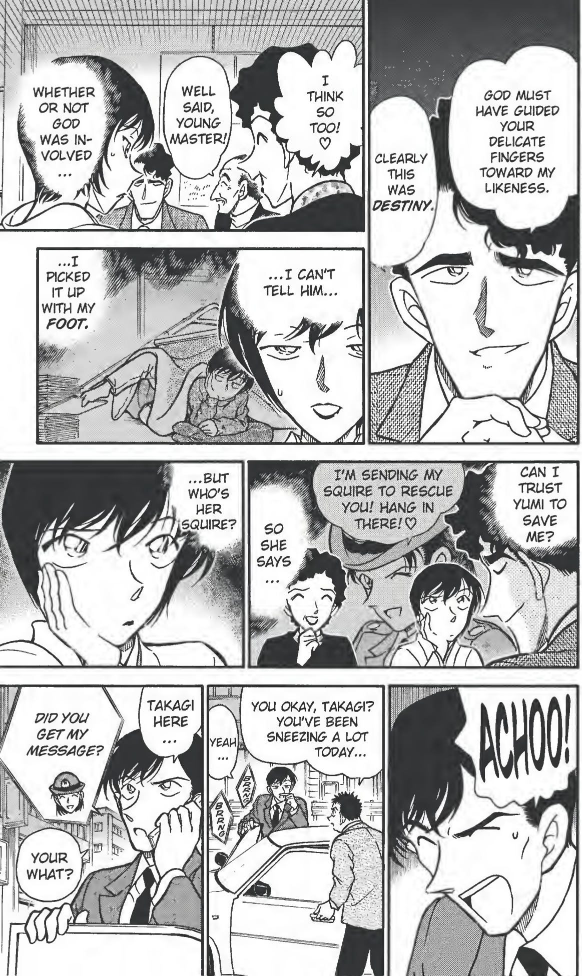

WHAT?
DETECTIVE SATO IS GOING TO A *MARRIAGE MEETING?*
THAT'S RIGHT! SHE SHOULD BE ALL DOLLED UP AND MEETING HER MATCH RIGHT NOW!
OOH...
SO WHO'S THE LUCKY GUY?
MIWAKO DIDN'T KNOW.
SHE SAID SHE JUST PICKED OUT A PHOTO WITHOUT LOOKING AT IT.
SHE'S MEETING A GUY...
...AND DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE?
Metrop
IT'LL BE FINE! HOW SKEEVY CAN YOU GET WITH A GUY WHO WANTS TO MARRY A COP?
I BET IT'S SOME DULL MIDDLE-AGED BUSINESSMAN WITH NOTHING TO HIDE! ♡
MINATORO RESTAURANT
TONK
HEY, WHAT'S THE HOLD-UP?

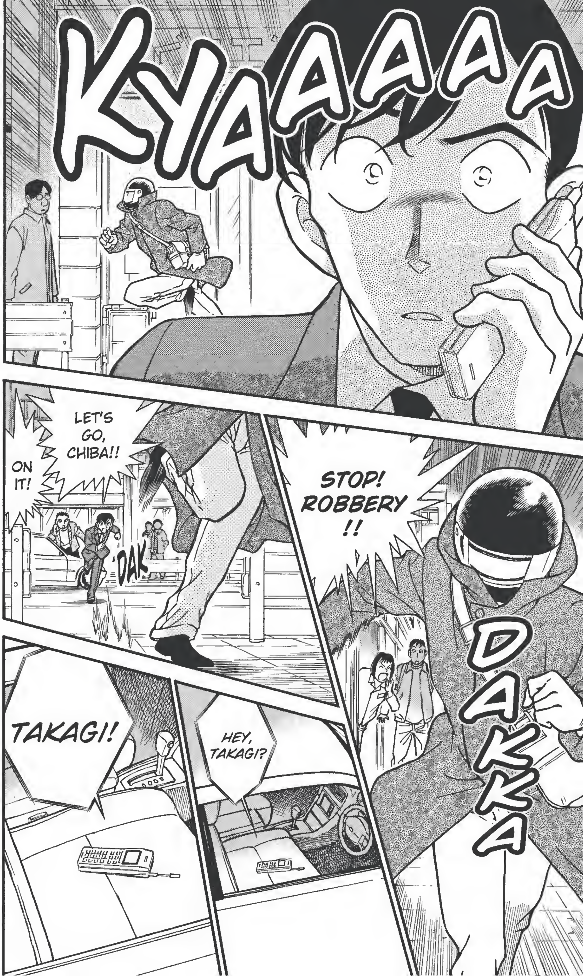

HE'S TEN MINUTES LATE ALREADY!
I DON'T THINK MUCH OF A GUY WHO KEEPS A GIRL WAITING!
I'M OUT OF HERE!!
SHF
COME NOW! IT'S ONLY TEN MINUTES!
BAM
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!
MY NAME IS ISO-KICHI KAMOI. NICE TO MEET YOU.
OH, NO WAY! YOU'RE HOOKING ME UP WITH THIS OLD PRUNE?
NO! HE'S THE FAMILY BUTLER!
SORRY, BUT THIS WAS SO SUDDEN. MY MASTER AND MISTRESS ARE ABROAD, SO I WILL BE TAKING THEIR PLACE ALONGSIDE THE YOUNG MASTER.
YOUNG MASTER?
GRP
AH, SORRY!
I TOOK MY TIME CHOOSING FLOWERS FOR YOU, DETECTIVE SATO.
SHOOF
BUT LET'S DROP THE WORKPLACE TITLES FOR TODAY.

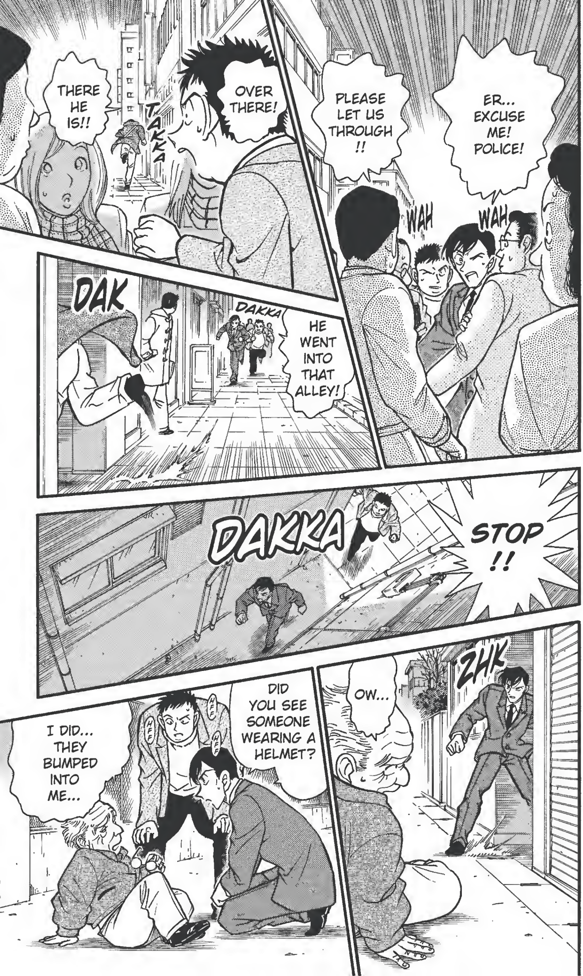

MAY I CALL YOU MIWAKO...
...INSTEAD?
SA...
SANTOS?
HELLO, MOTHER.
WHAT A PRINCE!
WH... WHY? HOW?
YOU CHOSE HIM YOURSELF, REMEMBER?
HUH?
JUST LIKE YOUR MOTHER, YOU CAN'T RESIST A MAN IN UNIFORM! ♡
PLEASE ACCEPT THESE.
HEH...

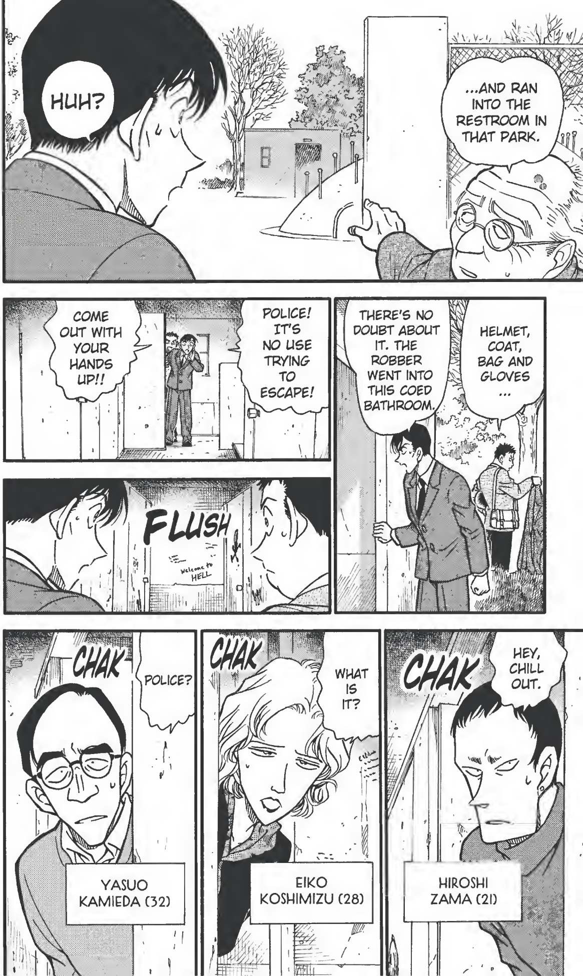

NOBODY AT THE STATION KNOWS ABOUT THIS MARRIAGE MEETING?
NOT EVEN DETECTIVE TAKAGI?
MIWAKO DIDN'T WANT IT TO GET AROUND. SHE'S GOT NO INTENTION OF MARRYING THIS GUY.
ANYWAY, SHE'S PRETTY POPULAR. IF WORD GOT OUT, IT COULD START A RIOT!
BUT WHAT IF THE GUY IS SERIOUS ABOUT IT?
Police
DON'T WORRY! WE AGREED TO PULL HER OUT OF THE MEETING BEFORE THINGS GET TOO HEAVY.
HE'LL LOSE INTEREST WHEN SHE DITCHES THE DATE FOR A POLICE INVESTIGATION, RIGHT?
WHO ARE YOU SENDING TO GET HER?
WHO ELSE? TAKAGI, OF COURSE!
I'M GOING TO SEND HIM A MESSAGE! "MIWAKO'S IN TROUBLE! PRETEND THERE'S AN URGENT CASE AND BAIL HER OUT OF HER MARRIAGE MEETING IN MINATORO!"
I BET HE'LL GO *FLYING* OVER THERE!
YOU DEVIL...
HE MIGHT EVEN CONFESS HIS FEELINGS RIGHT THERE... ♡
HEY, LET'S GO SEE!
IT'S KIND OF FAR...
CAN YOU GIVE US A RIDE, YUMI?
SORRY, I'M STILL ON DUTY...
HONK HONK

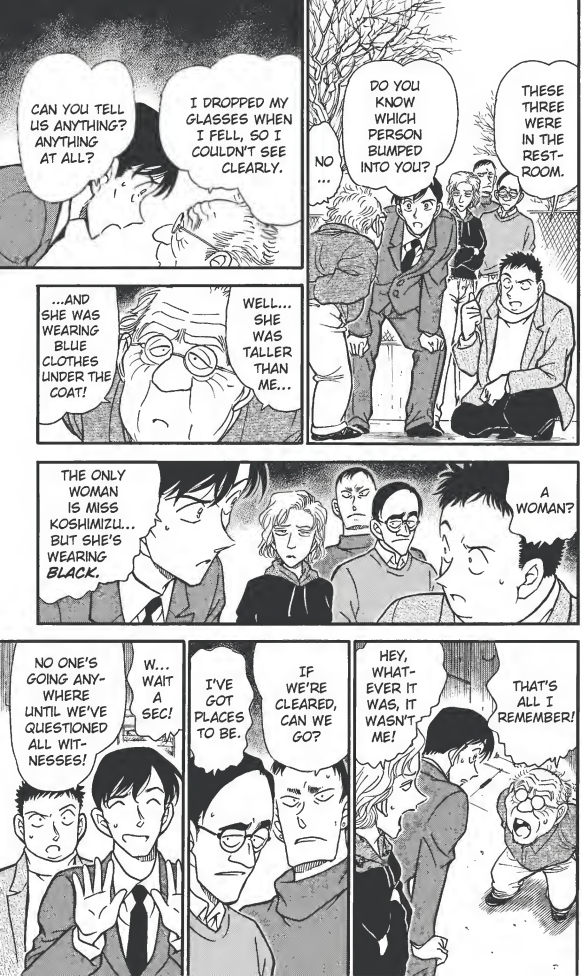

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
MR. ARAIDE?
LUCKY US! ♡
HUH?
THIS IS SUCH ON HONOR.
OUT OF ALL YOUR BESOTTED SUITORS, YOU CHOSE *ME*...
IT'S TOTAL COINCIDENCE! I JUST PICKED OUT A PHOTO AT RANDOM AND...
PINCH
OW!
DON'T BE SHY, MIWAKO.
IF IT WAS COINCIDENCE, SO MUCH THE BETTER.

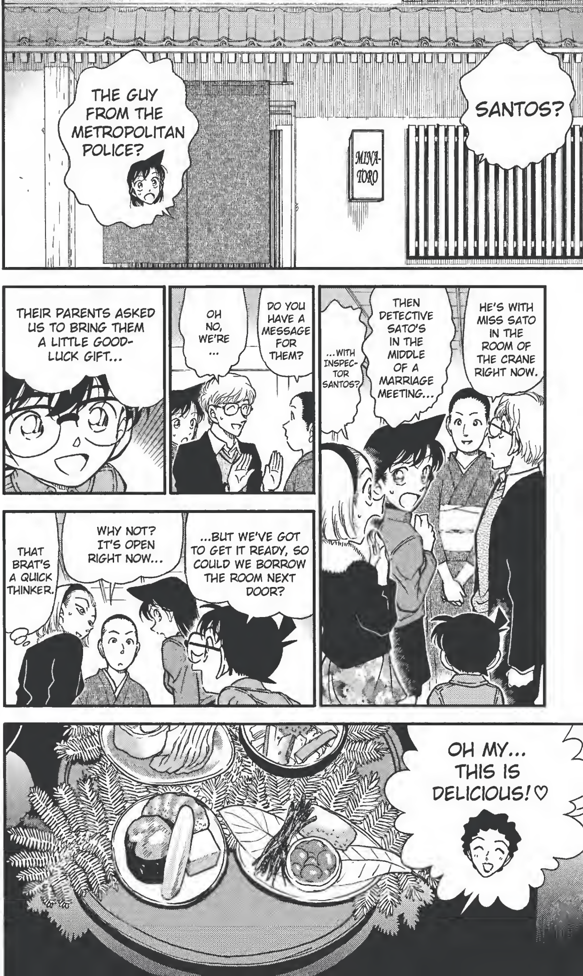

GOD MUST HAVE GUIDED YOUR DELICATE FINGERS TOWARD MY LIKENESS.
CLEARLY THIS WAS *DESTINY.*
I THINK SO TOO! ♡
WELL SAID, YOUNG MASTER!
WHETHER OR NOT GOD WAS INVOLVED ...
...I CAN'T TELL HIM...
...I PICKED IT UP WITH MY *FOOT.*
CAN I TRUST YUMI TO SAVE ME?
I'M SENDING MY SQUIRE TO RESCUE YOU! HANG IN THERE! ♡
SO SHE SAYS ...
...BUT WHO'S HER SQUIRE?
ACHOO!
YOU OKAY, TAKAGI? YOU'VE BEEN SNEEZING A LOT TODAY...
YEAH ...
BRRNG
BRRNG
BRRNG
TAKAGI HERE ...
DID YOU GET MY MESSAGE?
YOUR WHAT?

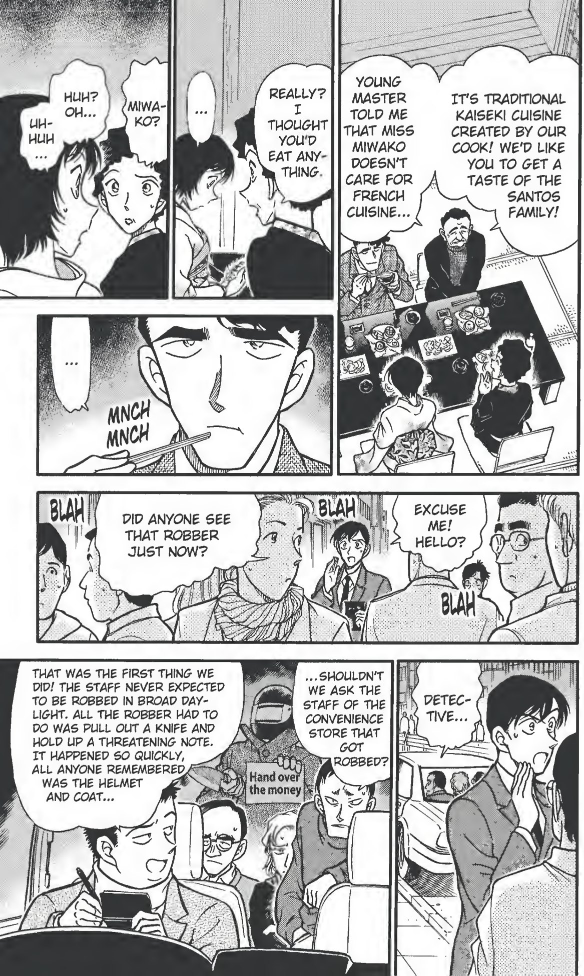

KYAAAAAA
STOP! ROBBERY!!
DAKA
LET'S GO, CHIBA!!
ON IT!
DAK
HEY, TAKAGI?
TAKAGI!

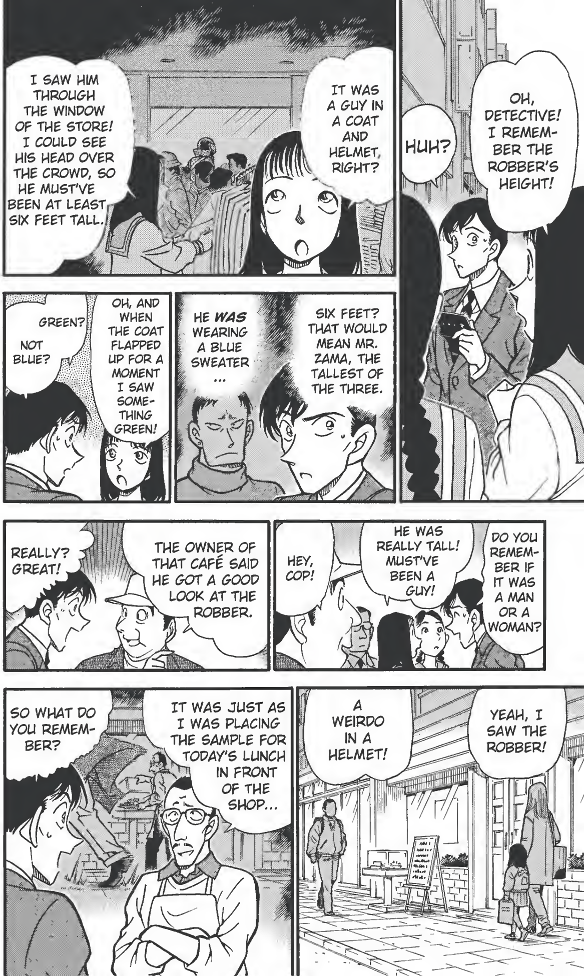

ER... EXCUSE ME! POLICE!
PLEASE LET US THROUGH!!
WAH
WAH
OVER THERE!
THERE HE IS!!
TAKKA
HE WENT INTO THAT ALLEY!
DAKKA
DAK
STOP!!
DAKKA
ZHK
OW...
DID YOU SEE SOMEONE WEARING A HELMET?
HFF
HFF
HFF
I DID... THEY BUMPED INTO ME...

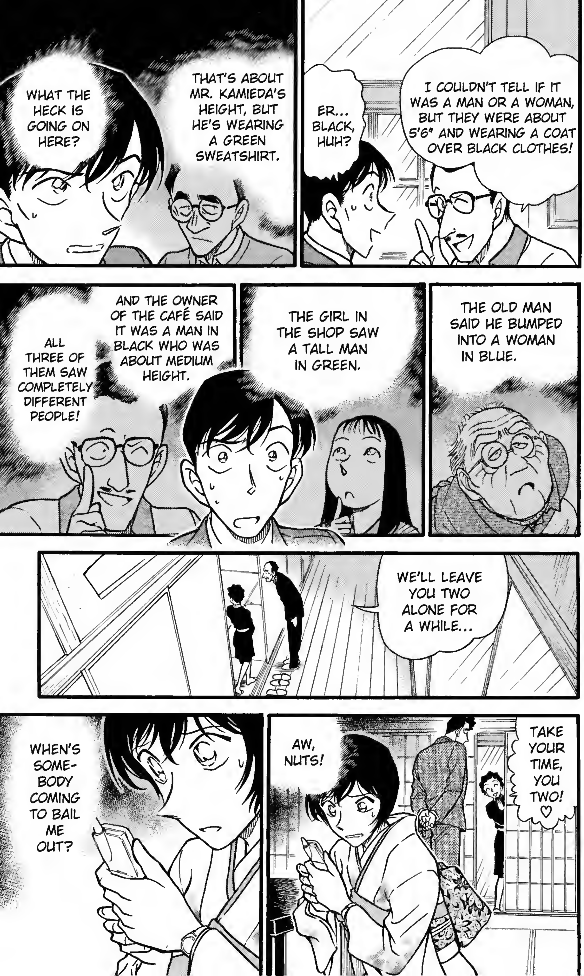

...AND RAN INTO THE RESTROOM IN THAT PARK.
HUH?
HELMET, COAT, BAG AND GLOVES ...
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. THE ROBBER WENT INTO THIS COED BATHROOM.
POLICE! IT'S NO USE TRYING TO ESCAPE!
COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP!!
FLUSH
Welcome to HELL
CHAK
HEY, CHILL OUT.
HIROSHI ZAMA (21)
CHAK
WHAT IS IT?
EIKO KOSHIMIZU (28)
CHAK
POLICE?
YASUO KAMIEDA (32)

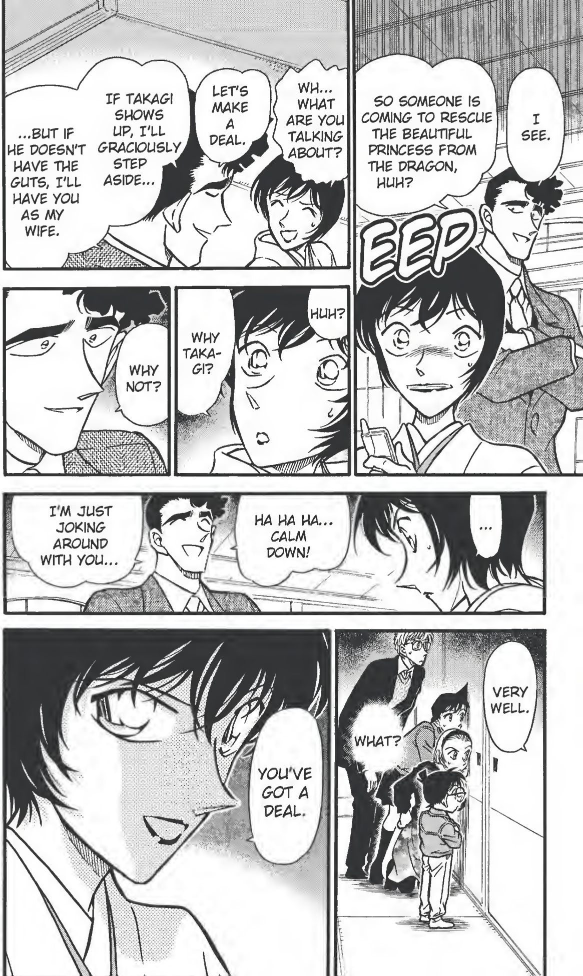

THESE THREE WERE IN THE RESTROOM.
DO YOU KNOW WHICH PERSON BUMPED INTO YOU?
NO...
I DROPPED MY GLASSES WHEN I FELL, SO I COULDN'T SEE CLEARLY.
CAN YOU TELL US ANYTHING? ANYTHING AT ALL?
WELL... SHE WAS TALLER THAN ME...
...AND SHE WAS WEARING BLUE CLOTHES UNDER THE COAT!
A WOMAN?
THE ONLY WOMAN IS MISS KOSHIMIZU... BUT SHE'S WEARING *BLACK.*
THAT'S ALL I REMEMBER!
HEY, WHATEVER IT WAS, IT WASN'T ME!
IF WE'RE CLEARED, CAN WE GO?
I'VE GOT PLACES TO BE.
W... WAIT A SEC!
NO ONE'S GOING ANYWHERE UNTIL WE'VE QUESTIONED ALL WITNESSES!


SANTOS?
THE GUY FROM THE METROPOLITAN POLICE?
MINA-TORO
HE'S WITH MISS SATO IN THE ROOM OF THE CRANE RIGHT NOW.
THEN DETECTIVE SATO'S IN THE MIDDLE OF A MARRIAGE MEETING...
...WITH INSPECTOR SANTOS?
DO YOU HAVE A MESSAGE FOR THEM?
OH NO, WE'RE ...
THEIR PARENTS ASKED US TO BRING THEM A LITTLE GOOD-LUCK GIFT...
...BUT WE'VE GOT TO GET IT READY, SO COULD WE BORROW THE ROOM NEXT DOOR?
WHY NOT? IT'S OPEN RIGHT NOW...
THAT BRAT'S A QUICK THINKER.
OH MY... THIS IS DELICIOUS! ♡


IT'S TRADITIONAL KAISEKI CUISINE CREATED BY OUR COOK! WE'D LIKE YOU TO GET A TASTE OF THE SANTOS FAMILY!
YOUNG MASTER TOLD ME THAT MISS MIWAKO DOESN'T CARE FOR FRENCH CUISINE...
REALLY? I THOUGHT YOU'D EAT ANYTHING.
...
MIWAKO?
HUH? OH...
UH-HUH...
...
MNCH MNCH
EXCUSE ME! HELLO?
BLAH
DID ANYONE SEE THAT ROBBER JUST NOW?
BLAH
BLAH
DETECTIVE...
...SHOULDN'T WE ASK THE STAFF OF THE CONVENIENCE STORE THAT GOT ROBBED?
THAT WAS THE FIRST THING WE DID! THE STAFF NEVER EXPECTED TO BE ROBBED IN BROAD DAYLIGHT. ALL THE ROBBER HAD TO DO WAS PULL OUT A KNIFE AND HOLD UP A THREATENING NOTE. IT HAPPENED SO QUICKLY, ALL ANYONE REMEMBERED WAS THE HELMET AND COAT...
Hand over the money


OH, DETECTIVE! I REMEMBER THE ROBBER'S HEIGHT!
HUH?
IT WAS A GUY IN A COAT AND HELMET, RIGHT?
I SAW HIM THROUGH THE WINDOW OF THE STORE! I COULD SEE HIS HEAD OVER THE CROWD, SO HE MUST'VE BEEN AT LEAST SIX FEET TALL.
SIX FEET? THAT WOULD MEAN MR. ZAMA, THE TALLEST OF THE THREE.
HE *WAS* WEARING A BLUE SWEATER...
OH, AND WHEN THE COAT FLAPPED UP FOR A MOMENT I SAW SOMETHING GREEN!
GREEN? NOT BLUE?
DO YOU REMEMBER IF IT WAS A MAN OR A WOMAN?
HE WAS REALLY TALL! MUST'VE BEEN A GUY!
HEY, COP!
THE OWNER OF THAT CAFÉ SAID HE GOT A GOOD LOOK AT THE ROBBER.
REALLY? GREAT!
YEAH, I SAW THE ROBBER!
A WEIRDO IN A HELMET!
IT WAS JUST AS I WAS PLACING THE SAMPLE FOR TODAY'S LUNCH IN FRONT OF THE SHOP...
SO WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER?

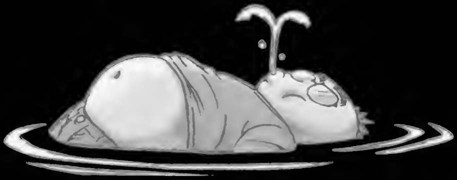

I COULDN'T TELL IF IT WAS A MAN OR A WOMAN, BUT THEY WERE ABOUT 5'6" AND WEARING A COAT OVER BLACK CLOTHES!
ER... BLACK, HUH?
THAT'S ABOUT MR. KAMIEDA'S HEIGHT, BUT HE'S WEARING A GREEN SWEATSHIRT.
WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON HERE?
THE OLD MAN SAID HE BUMPED INTO A WOMAN IN BLUE.
THE GIRL IN THE SHOP SAW A TALL MAN IN GREEN.
AND THE OWNER OF THE CAFÉ SAID IT WAS A MAN IN BLACK WHO WAS ABOUT MEDIUM HEIGHT.
ALL THREE OF THEM SAW COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PEOPLE!
WE'LL LEAVE YOU TWO ALONE FOR A WHILE...
TAKE YOUR TIME, YOU TWO! ♡
AW, NUTS!
WHEN'S SOMEBODY COMING TO BAIL ME OUT?

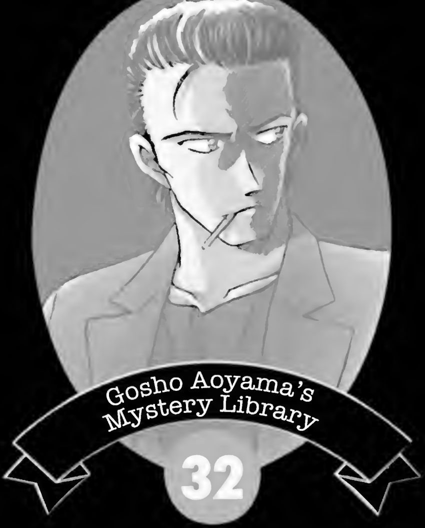

I SEE.
SO SOMEONE IS COMING TO RESCUE THE BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS FROM THE DRAGON, HUH?
EEP
WH... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
LET'S MAKE A DEAL.
IF TAKAGI SHOWS UP, I'LL GRACIOUSLY STEP ASIDE...
...BUT IF HE DOESN'T HAVE THE GUTS, I'LL HAVE YOU AS MY WIFE.
HUH?
WHY TAKAGI?
WHY NOT?
...
HA HA HA... CALM DOWN!
I'M JUST JOKING AROUND WITH YOU...
VERY WELL.
WHAT?
YOU'VE GOT A DEAL.

Hello, Aoyama here.

I went down to Osaka to draw the Osaka Castle storyline in this volume! While I was lurking around taking photos near a stone wall that was off limits, a security guard walked up and asked, "What are you doing?"

I couldn't bring myself to tell him, "I'm planning to draw a manga about a murder case here." I just stammered, "Er, taking photos." Fortunately, he smiled and went on his way. Osaka's a great place, everybody! ♪





MIKE HAMMER

Favorite cigarette: Lucky Strike. Favorite drink: bourbon with soda. Big, rude, but strangely popular with the ladies, he's the very definition of "tough guy." That's Mike Hammer, a detective created by Mickey Spillane. A lone wolf, Hammer is a private detective with an office in New York. He's the kind of guy who thinks with his fists, and he likes to proclaim, "I am the law." He investigates cases in his beat-up car and isn't above violence and lawbreaking to get the evidence he needs. He has no qualms about firing his trusty Colt Government at crooks!

Hammer's partner is his secretary, Velda, with the "million-dollar legs." ♥ She's a skilled assistant who packs a pistol and can put up a fight on her own. She's in love with Hammer and even dreams of marrying him, but he doesn't seem too interested. I'm so jealous of him...

I recommend *I, The Jury*.